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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 14, 2020

Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write in support of City of Hope's Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) COVID-19 Telehealth Program grant application which was appropriated by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. City of Hope is an independent research and treatment center for patients with cancer, diabetes, and other life-threatening diseases that has one of its cancer clinics in Corona, California.

Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the need for ongoing cancer diagnosis and the urgency of access to treatment have not abated. Cancer patients represent one of the most vulnerable populations during this health crisis as they are at high risk of serious illness because their immune systems are weakened by cancer and its treatment. As an institution, City of Hope has already taken steps to ensure its patients continue to receive life-saving therapy during these uncertain times. An award through the FCC Telehealth program would allow City of Hope to expand upon these efforts.

City of Hope's proposed telehealth program is specifically designed to minimize the health risks and exposure to its cancer patients by limiting the need to travel to the hospital or other network clinical locations. If approved, City of Hope plans to purchase the necessary equipment to enable its providers to treat cancer patients at home using cameras, headsets, laptops and tablets. Additionally, new equipment will be utilized for inpatient support services, allowing family members (who are currently unable to visit the hospital) to be part of treatment decisions and provide emotional support to their loved ones. Finally, the funds would allow city of Hope to purchase and deploy Radiologist Workstations which allow physicians to provide the same level of clinical expertise outside the hospital setting. These services are critical as City of Hope serves a population of nearly 20 million people across a service area that covers four Southern California Counties (Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino).

I want to thank you and the other Commissioners for your role in expanding telehealth services across the country through this critical initiative. As you continue your work, I would ask that you give every consideration to the application of City of Hope as it seeks to use telehealth to protect vulnerable cancer patients. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Calvert".

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress