

Congress of the United States

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Washington, D.C. 20510

December 18, 2020

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

The Honorable Kris Monteith
Bureau Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai and Chief Monteith:

We write to express our support of Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) application for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Connected Care Pilot Program. We further request your timely consideration of Children's Colorado's application, as it underscores the needs of an essential health care provider in the implementation of the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids (ACE Kids) Act.

Children's Colorado's application for the FCC Connected Care Pilot Program would enable Colorado to implement the ACE Kids Act successfully as it works to implement the law by 2022. The ACE Kids Act aims to provide improved care for kids with medically complex conditions. The new law also aims to facilitate better care coordination for children across multiple providers, ease access to necessary care across state lines, keep patients out of the hospital and care close to home whenever possible, support more standardized data collection and quality improvement, and decrease Medicaid spending.

Children with medical complexity require intensive care and support from multiple health care providers and community resources. Their families often report fragmented care due to a lack of active coordination between these services, which can result in duplicative or unnecessary services, unmet needs, excessive wait times, and missing information needed to make the medical decisions that best meet the needs of patients.

Children's Colorado is the largest provider of care for children, adolescents, and young adults with complex pediatric illnesses in the Rocky Mountain Region. As the main provider for children with the most complex medical issues in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, western Kansas, western Nebraska and parts of New Mexico, as well as North and South Dakota, the hospital plays a critical role in ensuring the ACE Kids Act is implemented with fidelity for our state and the broader region.

Children's Colorado's goals with the requested FCC funding, if granted, are to:

- Improve the quality of care for children with medical complexity;
- Reduce the gaps and challenges for families that arise from fragmentation in the health care system; and
- Connect children and families to community-based resources that can reduce costs.

The care traffic control system concept outlined in Children's Colorado's application, if implemented, will provide an information-rich, connected care model designed to bridge child care, schools, primary care providers, and social service networks. With this capacity, e-access—including telehealth, e-consult, e-consult with context (ECHO), mobile phone, phone triage, and symptom tracking will promote greater engagement on the part of parents and family caregivers, patients, multiple providers, and the systems of which they are a part.

The FCC funding would help enable optimal health care for children with medical complexity, when and where they need it, by providers they know and trust.

Therefore, we urge you to conduct a full and fair review of Children's Hospital Colorado's application for funding. Thank you for your consideration, and please notify our offices of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress