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For Immediate Release

**ACTING CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL HIGHLIGHTS
TELEHEALTH FOR PEDIATRICS**

Visits Children's National Hospital and Urges Need to Address Health Inequities

WASHINGTON, February 3, 2021—Acting FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel visited Children's National Hospital yesterday to highlight the importance of connectivity in healthcare and learn more about how the hospital is using telehealth to serve families during the pandemic. Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C. has provided pediatric care for 150 years and is among the nation's top 10 children's hospitals. Last year, Children's National, an academic pediatric health system, saw more than 219,000 children from the capital region and from across the country and around the world.

“So much more can be done to connect children and their families—in both urban and rural parts of the country—to the care they need not only to survive, but to thrive,” said Rosenworcel. “Telehealth can help bridge that gap by bringing specialty care available only in hospital centers to smaller clinics and even the home where problems can be addressed quickly, before they prove life threatening. I was encouraged by the creative work that Children's National Hospital is doing to address the unique health needs of children from all backgrounds especially during these challenging times.”

Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel was joined by her colleague FCC Commissioner Nathan Simington for a tour of the hospital, where they met with Shireen Atabaki, M.D., M.P.H., associate medical director of Telehealth, Emergency Medicine physician and program director for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program at Children's National Hospital. The visit also included a demo of a telehealth robot by Ricardo Munoz, M.D., Cardiac Critical Care Medicine chief, and Alejandro Jose Lopez-Magallon, M.D., medical director of Telemedicine, both at Children's National.

“The pandemic catapulted telehealth as a tool for the future of health care delivery,” said Dr. Atabaki. “With the support of the FCC, Children's National is excited to introduce a robot and other state-of-the-art digital health technology to support provider-to-patient pediatric care and expert consultations in our hospital's emergency departments and across our region. These innovations in telemedicine will facilitate access to specialized expertise and care of COVID-19 patients.”

In May 2020, Children's National Hospital was approved for funding as part of the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program and established a regional pediatric telehealth consortium. This will enable the hospital to expand its telehealth platform to support 15 health care sites in the region serving children and young adults, providing care to children with COVID-19, as well as those who are medically vulnerable.

Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel is committed to closing the digital divide and sees access to telehealth care services—especially for underserved and marginalized communities—as a top priority. To learn more about telehealth efforts at the FCC, including the COVID-19 Telehealth Program and the Connected Care Pilot Program, visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/connecting-americans-health-care>.

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