

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

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January 22, 2021

Federal Communications Commission  
Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

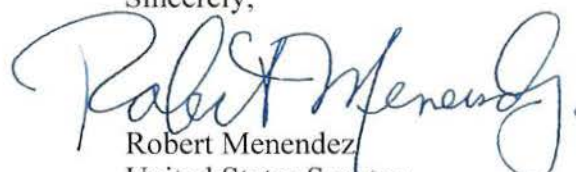
I write today in support of University Hospital's application to participate in the Federal Communications Commission's Connected Care Pilot and ask you to provide their application with due consideration.

I understand that one of the priorities of this program is service to low-income communities. University Hospital is New Jersey's public academic health center and is committed to ensuring that New Jerseyans have access to quality health care services, no matter their income or zip code. Newark, the city in which University Hospital resides, experiences a high rate of poverty. According to the US Census Bureau, 27.4% of persons in Newark are in poverty as compared to 9.2% in the State of New Jersey as a whole.<sup>1</sup> Last year, University Hospital provided more Charity Care than any other acute care hospital in the state.<sup>2</sup>

I share University Hospital's commitment to ensuring that all New Jersey residents have access to lifesaving health services; our state's low-income families rely on the care that University Hospital provides every single day. In light of the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, which has further exacerbated economic disparities and created high unemployment and poverty levels, it is even more critical that we preserve and expand access to care for low-income populations through many avenues, including telehealth services. Participation in this pilot program would allow University Hospital to expand health care access for the vulnerable populations they serve.

As New Jersey's Senior Senator and a longtime supporter of health care access, I thank you for your consideration of University Hospital's application.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/NJ,newarkcitynewjersey/PST045219>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nj.gov/health/charitycare/subsidy-reports/>