

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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May 24, 2021

Ms. Jessica Rosenworcel, Acting Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L St. NE  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Gundersen Lutheran Health System FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Grant Application**

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

I am writing in support of the application submitted by Gundersen Lutheran Health System for a Covid-19 Telehealth Grant. As the current public health crisis continues, telehealth remains a crucial frontline resource for providers to continue to deliver care to their patients.

Despite the pandemic, Gundersen Lutheran Health System has successfully continued to provide integrated care to thousands of patients via telehealth. Gundersen Health System (GHS) is comprised of Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and six critical access hospitals (CAHs), serving the most vulnerable and underrepresented individuals in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Increased flexibilities and investments in the use of telehealth has allowed GHS to conduct over 195,000 visits via audio and virtual modalities in 2020 alone. These platforms have allowed for over 63,000 individuals located in rural areas to receive care, an opportunity that may have otherwise not been possible without the use of telehealth.

Gundersen Lutheran Health System is applying for this COVID-19 Telehealth Program grant to recover eligible costs incurred after March 14, 2020. The funding secured would support the purchase of wireless carts, peripherals, monitors, and related maintenance fees. The central goal for these purchases is to eliminate the need for rural patients to travel to the central campus for care during the ongoing pandemic and fulfill its obligation to provide care close to home for patients across the GHS 22-county service network in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I encourage your strong consideration of this grant application and the critical service it provides to rural populations ensuring access to continued care in an increasingly virtual world. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance in support of this funding application.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress