

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 20, 2021

Ms. Jessica Rosenworcel
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C., 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

We write to express our support for the University of Vermont Health Network's application to the Federal Communications Commission for reimbursement through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program. The associated application number is GRA0012054 and the OMB Control Number is 3060-1271. We are pleased to bring this proposal to your attention.

The University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN) is an integrated health care system with six hospitals, a home health and hospice agency, and a multi-specialty physician group serving the residents of Vermont and northern New York. During the coronavirus pandemic, UVMHN rapidly expanded its capability to provide telehealth care to patients, peaking at over 7,000 telemedicine visits per week in the spring of 2020. UVMHN currently holds over 4,000 telemedicine visits per week, protecting patient safety and improving access to care across its service area. During this time, UVMHN has also increased telehealth access for its New American pediatric clinic, resulting in a reduced appointment no-show rate and an increased ability to meet patient needs.

UVMHN seeks reimbursement from the FCC for costs associated with expanding its telehealth program, including the addition of remote health monitoring and providing services through audio-only communication. The FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program funding would reimburse UVMHN's purchases of equipment to outfit all affiliates, as well as reimburse the costs of a change in service and use of devices to monitor and care for patients from their homes.

We appreciate you giving this application the consideration it deserves. If we can offer any further evidence of our support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



PETER WELCH
United States Congressman