



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0523

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June 16, 2021

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

I write in strong support of the application submitted by the Kern County Hospital Authority (KCHA) for \$819,055.50 in funding from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s COVID-19 Telehealth Program. With this funding, KCHA intends to support and enhance telehealth services, including for devices used by health care providers and patients during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

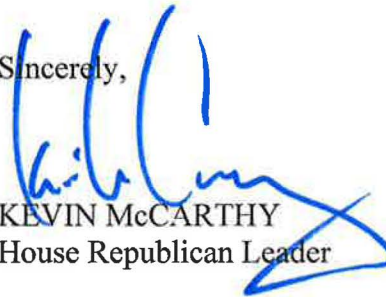
Located in the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County is the third-largest county in California, spanning over 8,000 square miles, and is home to over 900,000 residents. KCHA's hospital, Kern Medical, is the only trauma center serving Kern County and is a disproportionate share hospital that provides care to many low-income and uninsured residents in our community. KCHA also operates 11 outpatient clinics and several mobile health clinics to provide care to residents in some of the more underserved or rural communities.

KCHA also provides services related to COVID-19, including housing and caring for COVID-19 patients, managing drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites, and administering COVID-19 vaccinations through both fixed and mobile sites. Notably, over 70% of COVID-19 vaccinations administered by KCHA have gone to the most vulnerable areas of Kern County. However, KCHA submitted an application for funding from the first round of FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program last year but was not awarded funding. Accordingly, KCHA made an investment to enhance telehealth services during the COVID-19 public health emergency and is seeking funding that would be directed to telehealth devices through the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

Again, I strongly support KCHA's application for \$819,055.50 in funding from the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program in order to enhance its telehealth capabilities. It is my understanding that KCHA's grant application encompasses the intent of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program: to support efforts of health care providers to address coronavirus by providing telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary to enable the provision of telehealth services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, I respectfully ask for your thorough review and consideration of this application.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader