

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairperson
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Radha Sekar
Chief Executive Officer
Universal Service Administrative Company
700 12th Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairperson Rosenworcel and Ms. Sekar:

We write to express our support of Children’s Hospital Colorado’s (Children’s Colorado) application for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) COVID-19 Telehealth Program. We request your consideration of Children’s Colorado’s application, as it underscores the needs of an essential health care provider as we continue the fight against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*, which included an additional \$249.95 million for the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program to support health care providers’ efforts to address the coronavirus by providing telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary for telehealth services.

In response to the pandemic, Children’s Colorado—in part through funding from the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program after enactment of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*—rapidly undertook a massive mobilization of telehealth treatment. Children’s Colorado has grown their telehealth volume from an average of 20 visits per day in 2019 to roughly 1,000 visits per day in 2021. Social distancing in order to quell community spread will remain vitally important across our state, and telehealth can facilitate safe access to care while limiting the spread of the virus.

Additional support from the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program would enable Children’s Colorado to expand their existing telehealth infrastructure and establish programs that would allow patients and families to stay in their communities for care. Funds would ensure Children’s Colorado’s expertise is readily available to anyone who could benefit no matter where they live.

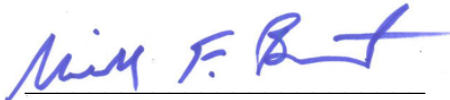
Specifically, they are seeking funds for the following:

- **InTouch telehealth carts** to partner with community hospitals in the region to support access to pediatric intensivists and neonatal/pediatric specialists for community hospital NICUs and inpatient units. This will allow patients to remain close to home and avoid costly transfers to Children’s Colorado or other outside facilities.
- **Operational costs** to maintain and expand their portfolio of telehealth services, including annual and individual licensing costs and subscriptions.


- **Devices with cellular capabilities** to ensure patient-families in the rural communities across the region can receive specialty care from Children’s Colorado in their homes when Wi-Fi access isn’t available due to their location.
- **Devices and a software platform** to support the ability of immediate and extended family members to see their loved ones at Children’s Colorado’s NICU.

Therefore, we encourage you to give the application submitted by the Children’s Hospital Colorado every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your consideration, and please notify our offices of any funds awarded.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator