

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS**

Re: *Promoting Telehealth for Low-Income Consumers*, WC Docket No. 18-213, Third Selection Public Notice (October 26, 2021).

I am pleased to approve today's Order announcing the Connected Care Pilot Program's third set of projects. During the last year-and-a-half, the COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed the importance of telehealth in our country's healthcare system. Through today's projects and the many others already selected, the Pilot Program will promote innovation in telehealth and more patient access, particularly in underserved communities. Several of the projects we select today—including those proposed by the Charles Judd Community Health Center, Long Island Select Healthcare, Metro Health, New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center and Bronx Child and Family Mental Health Center, Norwegian American Hospital, and NY Community Broadband Partnership—will serve patient populations that are 100 percent low-income. I thank the Commission's staff for their hard work making the Pilot Program a success, and I look forward to hearing about these programs' results.