



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

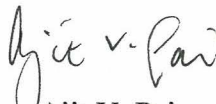
Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's rural healthcare program. That program provides funding to eligible health care providers (HCPs) for telecommunications and broadband services necessary for the provision of health care. I deeply appreciate the importance of these HCPs serving rural communities and the need for universal service funding in making sure all Americans have access to state-of-the-art healthcare. As the son of a doctor in Kansas, who often travelled many miles to see his patients, I am well aware of the difficulty so many in rural America have in getting adequate healthcare.

I have long made ensuring the viability of the RHC program for rural participants a priority. When the FCC created the Healthcare Connect Fund in 2012, I pushed the Commission to make sure that the majority of the funds were targeted at rural healthcare providers. And last December, I pushed the agency to crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse in the program to ensure sufficient funding for the many good actors that need it.

You mention the recent letter from the New England Telehealth Consortium and the School, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition, which proposes to establish a mechanism similar to that in the E-Rate program to rollover unexpended rural healthcare program funds from one year to the next. That proposal is currently under review by our hard-working staff in the Wireline Competition Bureau. More generally, I have asked Commission staff to look closely at the RHC program and to consider ways to better allocate funds within the existing program cap.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

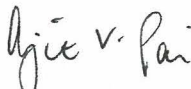
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OFFICE OF
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March 9, 2017

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's rural healthcare program. That program provides funding to eligible health care providers (HCPs) for telecommunications and broadband services necessary for the provision of health care. I deeply appreciate the importance of these HCPs serving rural communities and the need for universal service funding in making sure all Americans have access to state-of-the-art healthcare. As the son of a doctor in Kansas, who often travelled many miles to see his patients, I am well aware of the difficulty so many in rural America have in getting adequate healthcare.

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's rural healthcare program. That program provides funding to eligible health care providers (HCPs) for telecommunications and broadband services necessary for the provision of health care. I deeply appreciate the importance of these HCPs serving rural communities and the need for universal service funding in making sure all Americans have access to state-of-the-art healthcare. As the son of a doctor in Kansas, who often travelled many miles to see his patients, I am well aware of the difficulty so many in rural America have in getting adequate healthcare.

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OFFICE OF
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's rural healthcare program. That program provides funding to eligible health care providers (HCPs) for telecommunications and broadband services necessary for the provision of health care. I deeply appreciate the importance of these HCPs serving rural communities and the need for universal service funding in making sure all Americans have access to state-of-the-art healthcare. As the son of a doctor in Kansas, who often travelled many miles to see his patients, I am well aware of the difficulty so many in rural America have in getting adequate healthcare.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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March 9, 2017

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's rural healthcare program. That program provides funding to eligible health care providers (HCPs) for telecommunications and broadband services necessary for the provision of health care. I deeply appreciate the importance of these HCPs serving rural communities and the need for universal service funding in making sure all Americans have access to state-of-the-art healthcare. As the son of a doctor in Kansas, who often travelled many miles to see his patients, I am well aware of the difficulty so many in rural America have in getting adequate healthcare.

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