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For Immediate Release

**COMMISSIONER CLYBURN STATEMENT
ON UPDATES TO MAPPING BROADBAND HEALTH IN AMERICA PLATFORM**

WASHINGTON, June 8, 2017 – “I am pleased that the Commission is demonstrating its continued commitment to the Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force and the *Mapping Broadband Health in America* platform with the release of today’s update. For far too many rural and underserved consumers, the broadband health picture remains bleak.

“By investing in this vital broadband health mapping platform and unveiling a new list of critical need counties, the Commission is providing the data needed to ensure connectivity reaches those communities most in need. I am confident that when relevant stakeholders work together across sectors, we will successfully break boundaries at the intersection of broadband and health policy.”

“When the Task Force conducted its Beyond the Beltway series through 10 communities across the country, the almost universal refrain from hundreds of federal, state, and local stakeholders with whom we engaged – including consumers, state and local government officials, clinicians and hospitals, public health experts, policy makers, community leaders, technologists, and industry groups – was to help them better leverage broadband as an essential health tool. The *Mapping Broadband Health in America* platform not only answered that universal clarion call, it was a landmark achievement because it was the first time that the FCC had sought to get behind the rhetoric and really understand the relationship between broadband access and health needs. The response of key stakeholders to the initial announcement of the platform further demonstrates its value. Hundreds of people registered for an in-depth webinar on the platform. It is catalyzing more efficient policy decision making at the Commission, other federal agencies, and in local communities. A quick web search indicates that numerous local governments and community organizations have distributed the platform to their constituents.”

“And, the work of the Task Force is far from done. Armed with the robust input from stakeholders across the country along with the data and information that is pouring into the Commission in response to the recent Connect2Health Public Notice, the Task Force staff are tirelessly working to make recommendations to the Commission about how best to architect broadband health policy to meet the needs of rural and underserved Americans. I am delighted by the analysis I have seen thus far and look forward to even more refined input.”

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).