

TONKO.HOUSE.GOV  
@REP.PAUL.TONKO  
2369 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6076  
19 DOVE STREET, SUITE 302  
ALBANY, NY 12210  
(518) 465-0700  
61 CHURCH STREET, ROOM 309  
AMSTERDAM, NY 12010  
(518) 843-3400  
105 JAY STREET, ROOM 15  
SCHENECTADY, NY 12305  
(518) 374-4547



PAUL D. TONKO  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS,  
AND PUBLIC LANDS  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write on behalf of Ellis Medicine, located in Schenectady, New York, which is in the heart of New York's 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Ellis Medicine recently submitted an application for funding through the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program. I respectfully request your consideration of their attached application.

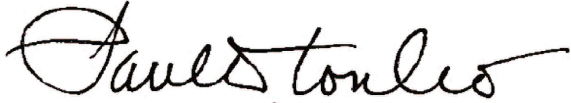
New York State continues to be the most severely impacted state in the country by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of May 13<sup>th</sup>, there have been 587 positive cases within Schenectady County alone. Because of this, health care providers, like Ellis Medicine, have been exploring creative ways to provide quality care to their patients while protecting public health.

As detailed in the application, these funds are critical to the implementation of Ellis Medicine's telehealth system in primary care offices, which would include access to telemedicine services for nearly all of Ellis's Medicine's primary care providers. In addition, medical professionals at Ellis Medicine would be able to provide at-home treatment and monitoring services to COVID-19 patients, as well as afford a safe option for continued care for non-COVID patients, particularly those suffering from chronic conditions who are at an increased risk for contracting the virus.

Finally, these funds would be used to integrate Ellis Medicine's telehealth system (MEND) into the electronic health records platform, increasing efficiency with access to and input of personal patient information. This funding would allow telehealth options for patients with behavioral health concerns and provide an anonymous way to seek and receive care. It would also be particularly helpful in expanding remote care options in situations where patients may have barriers to in-person care, such as being homebound, residing in senior living facilities or having a lack of adequate transportation.

Your consideration of Ellis Medicine's application, consistent with all federal laws, rules, regulations and agency policies, is appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul D. Tonko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress