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PAUL D. TONKO
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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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 20th 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.

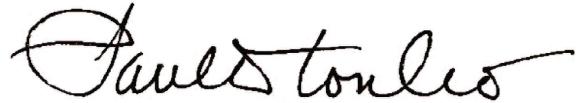
New York State continues to be the most severely impacted state in the country by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of May 13th, there have been 587 positive cases within Schenectady County alone. Because of this, health care providers, like Ellis Medicine, have been exploring creative ways to provide quality 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, appearing to read "Paul D. Tonko".

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress