

July 10, 2018

The Honorable Brendan Carr  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Carr,

I want to thank you for the time you spent in the state of Indiana this past May learning about the challenges Hoosiers face. From connected farm operations in Carthage to Smart Ag research in West Lafayette to innovative telemedicine in McCordsville, rural broadband deployment is the common-theme to their success. In particular, rural broadband deployment is critical to expanding telemedicine to patients in new and innovative ways, and I would encourage you to take additional steps to help bridge this digital divide.

For example, we toured Hancock Health operations in McCordsville where we viewed a demonstration from the chief medical officer on how they are able to use telemedicine to collaborate between physicians to diagnose and treat cancer. Through NineStar Connect's high-speed broadband services, physicians there can collaborate in a number of minutes or hours in what previously could take numerous days to accomplish. As a result, cancer patients in this community receive treatment more quickly than they ever have before.

We also discussed the value of moving from doctor-to-doctor telemedicine interactions to doctor-to-patient interactions and the promise that holds. Ultimately, I believe these types of interactions could save taxpayer funded healthcare programs money in the long-term. However, any new funds used to expand telemedicine in this way must include rigorous evaluations to ensure that we are receiving a "return on investment" that truly drives healthcare costs down.

With this in mind, I would encourage you and your colleagues at the FCC to take additional steps to support connectivity for telemedicine, which could include looking for ways to bring healthcare into the home in new, innovative ways. This could be particularly helpful in rural and other underserved communities across Indiana that continue to face challenges in obtaining access to high-quality healthcare.

I look forward to working with you in developing new, innovative programs to expand the use of telemedicine throughout Indiana and the entire country. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you on this as we try to create a more connected future that works for all Americans.

Sincerely,



Senator Todd Young  
United States Senator