

MIKE GALLAGHER
8TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

1230 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-5665

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1702 SCHEURING ROAD
SUITE B
DE PERE, WI 54115
PHONE (920) 301-4500

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES
INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING THREATS

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 5, 2020

Mr. Peter Aimable, Deputy Assistant Administrator
USDA RUS: DLT & Telecommunications Prog.
STOP 1597, Room 2844, 1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-1597

Re: HSHS St. Vincent Hospital USDA DLT grant application

Dear Mr. Aimable and DLT Program Staff:

I am writing regarding HSHS St. Vincent Hospital's USDA DLT grant application submitted to you in February 2020. I fully support their efforts which will enable HSHS to acquire telemedicine equipment thereby increasing access to rural Opioid/Substance Use Disorder (OUD/SUD) Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Care in my district.

HSHS St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay, Wisconsin, located in the heart of my district, is leading the charge for this grant application to secure telemedicine equipment for 13 hospital emergency room and outpatient clinic sites, many of which are located in federally designated rural and underserved populations, in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Specifically, HSHS leaders have informed me that this grant will be used to:

- Help address the opioid crisis through emergency department consults, evaluations, education, referrals, counseling and treatment of OUD/SUD patients
- Support emergency department services including 24/7 tele-stroke specialist consults
- Support future developments of tele-pediatric, tele-neonatal, and tele-emergency care
- Help establish a telemedicine hub and spoke network to bring specialists to patients
- Support planning of a federal HRSA RCORP-Planning grant project in NE Wisconsin
- Support a five-year WI DHS Opioid Methamphetamine Treatment Center project

This project has the potential to greatly impact the quality of care in NE Wisconsin and the greater Wisconsin area in a positive way. In addition, it can expand access to underserved rural patients, save lives, reduce disability and improve patient outcomes. For these reasons, I ask that you approve HSHS's grant application request. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 202-225-5665 if there is anything else I can do to aid the approval of their grant application.

S/F,



Mike Gallagher

Member of Congress