

July 5, 2018

Mr. Ajit Pai
FCC Chairman

Mr. Michael O'Rielly, Mr. Brendan Carr, Mr. Brendan Carr, Mrs. Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioners of US FCC

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Funding and structuring the second stage of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Coopharma is a non for profit cooperative organization of community pharmacies through the Island of Puerto Rico. As health care providers it is necessary, that our members can process electronic transaction regarding patient data with several other components of the health care sector.

During Hurricane María, the land base communication sector went down for several weeks, hampering our efforts to take advantage of the electronic means provided to expedite the dispensing of the prescriptions to our patients. Initiatives such as *Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds* will strengthen our land base communications infrastructure, but due to the great amount of the lines in poles and over the land, it is reasonable to expect that a massive failure can occur again in lieu of a catastrophic event such as Hurricane María.

For the reasons about what went wrong during Hurricane María with land base communications, it is important that redundant system such as VSAT (very small aperture satellite terminal) and Satellite phones are needed for the transmission of data and voice communications between the health care sector providers for the benefit of the evaluation, treatment, management, and prescription of our patient's health care conditions.

Coopharma and its members respectfully request that the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds, also allocate funds for satellite broadband communications.

Respectfully,



Mr. Heriberto Ortiz Martínez
Executive Director | Coopharma