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May 2, 2007

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

Re: Rural Health Care Pilot Project

Dear Rural Health Care Pilot Project Review Committee:

We at The Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education are pleased to support and participate in the proposed Onecommunity Rural Health Care project. This initiative, designed to serve the Northeast Ohio Region, has been created in response to the Federal Communication Commission announcement for a Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

University Hospitals (UH) is a community-based health care system which serves patients at more than 150 locations throughout Northern Ohio, including seven wholly owned and four affiliated hospitals.

Committed to advanced care and advanced caring, UH encompasses the region's largest network of primary care physicians, outpatient centers and hospitals. The network also offers specialty care physicians to treat almost every disease and condition, skilled nursing, elder health, rehabilitation and home care services, and occupational health and wellness.

University Hospitals is the second largest private sector employer in Northeast Ohio and is within the top five largest private sector employers in the state of Ohio.

University Hospitals believes that a successful implementation of this Pilot Project will set the stage for greater collaboration amongst the healthcare facilities, university medical centers, major teaching centers, colleges and universities that train, conduct research and provide advanced healthcare throughout Ohio and the Northeast region.

This project supports UH's objective to connect our community hospitals and clinics with high speed links, and foster collaborative care between UH's main campus and all community/ rural hospitals.

University Hospitals is pleased to offer this support letter for Onecommunity because Onecommunity has a successful broadband network, significant healthcare technology coordination role and established partner network that includes the Northeast Ohio

Regional Health Organization (**NEORHIO**), regional urban and rural healthcare providers, and a consortium of vendors, technology researchers and government advisers. This existing core network and health care focus should allow Onecommunity to meet the expected goals and outcomes of the FCC's pilot program.

Onecommunity is in a unique position because they have already been working with healthcare organizations to extend their current network and clearly detailed how they would install additional gigabyte optical fiber connections to hospitals, care providers, patients and government health agencies in the **rural areas** of Northeastern Ohio. We believe that OneCommunity's goals are specific and meet the tone and objectives of the **FCC** pilot project. Specific aims of the OneCommunity's proposal include: (1) connecting rural hospitals located in the Northeast Ohio rural health region over a dedicated broadband network; (2) extending the OneCommunity/NEORHIO broadband services to rural providers; (3) creating a regional repository that employs secure telehealth applications for chronic disease monitoring and continuing education services; and (4) implementing sustainable enterprise solutions using Health Information Technology for eligible providers in rural and underserved counties. **This** network is expected to improve the quality of **health** care while reducing the cost.

Lastly, University Hospitals supports **Onecommunity** because **of** their proven history **and** continued sustainability. **OneCommunity has** made significant progress in identifying innovative applications **and services** that take advantage of the physical **fiber** network that they have built **and** continue to build. They have successfully developed a network of non profit and for profit organizations applications that work collectively to realize the true potential **this resource has** to offer to the region and the health **care** of its **citizens**. Their use **cases** are clearly defined and meet the needs of the region,

Again, it is University Hospitals pleasure to **strongly** support OneCommunity's proposal. **If** there should be any questions **regarding** this letter or related issues please do **not** hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Brad Chilton

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