

Acronym	
USC	University of Southern California
USDA-RUS	United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Utilities Service
VLAN	Virtual Local Area Network
VPN	Virtual Private Network
V-RH	Virtual Regional Hub

Appendix G

Letters of Support/Commitment



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Robert C. Dynes
President

11 11 Franklin Street
Oakland, California 94607-5200
Phone: (510) 987-9074
Fax: (510) 987-9086
<http://www.ucop.edu>

May 3, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to submit this application on behalf of the State of California for funding to support a proposed new statewide California Telehealth Network in response to the Federal Communication Commission's Order for the Rural Health Care Support Mechanism.

In developing this proposal, new partnerships have been created that join the University's health sciences instructional system together with the interests of Governor Schwarzenegger, State and federal legislators, private industry, and rural California health facilities to create a new state-of-the-art California Telehealth Network. This initiative aligns closely with the Governor's priorities for accelerating the deployment of broadband telecommunication technologies, as well as with UC priorities for investing new bond funding for statewide telemedicine purposes. The proposed pilot would also encourage other public and private entities to work with us to develop a state-of-the-art network that will play a major role in meeting California's growing health-care needs.

As you may be aware, the UC system operates the largest health sciences program in the nation and our five academic medical centers serve as major providers of patient services. In view of growing state shortages of physicians, nurses and other health professionals, we have recently completed a major systemwide planning effort for the health professions. In keeping with this plan, UC intends to increase the number of students admitted to four of our five medical schools in fall 2008 through new teaching programs that focus uniquely on the needs of medically underserved communities.

As recently as November 2006, California voters approved an important bond initiative that will provide \$200 million in funding to support this expansion and fund development of new telemedicine programs to increase access to specialty services provided by UC medical school faculty. As we work toward our vision for a new statewide network, we are fortunate and proud to have an outstanding record of success with telemedicine as a result of efforts by

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
May 3, 2007
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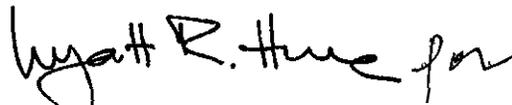
our UC Davis (UCD) campus and the UCD Health System. I am pleased to note it was recently recognized as a national leader and awarded the prestigious President's Award by the American Telemedicine Association.

As indicated in several letters of support for this proposal, UC was asked by State agencies, the rural health community, and other partners to serve as the lead organization and applicant for the project. Although we are ready and committed to filling this role, we intend for this to remain a joint endeavor with our partners through all phases of the project. If funding for the pilot is provided, the Office of the President's Division of Health Affairs and the UC Davis Health System will share the responsibility for leading and managing the project.

If you have questions about the application, please get in touch with Cathryn Nation, M.D., Executive Director--Health Sciences, who is the lead for my office or Thomas Nesbitt, M.D., Executive Associate Dean at the UC Davis Health System, who is the lead for UC Davis. Dr. Nation can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9705 and Dr. Nesbitt can be reached by telephone at (916) 734-1358.

We look forward to your review and feedback.

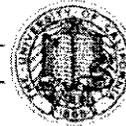
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Dynes for". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert C. Dynes

Enclosure

cc: Chancellor Vanderhoef
Provost Hume
Executive Vice President Darling
Assistant Vice President Arditti
Assistant Vice President Sudduth
Executive Director Nation
Executive Associate Dean Nesbitt



FERRY N. VANDERHOFF
Chancellor at Davis

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8558
TELEPHONE: (530) 752-2065
FAX: (530) 752-2400

May 5, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to support the California proposal for the Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Pilot Program. UC Davis has one of the leading telemedicine programs in the world, and I am proud of the impact we have had on rural California.

I recently had a chance to present the UC Davis Telemedicine Program to the UC Board of Regents. As a component of our presentation, we showed a video that tells the story of a child from Willits, a small town that is approximately four hours north of Sacramento. He was brought to this rural emergency department in critical condition and, by most accounts, would likely have died without the telemedicine link to UC Davis Children's Hospital. Our faculty physicians collaborated with the local clinicians to guide them in life-saving procedures.

The pediatric critical care program is just one example of **the** work that has been accomplished by Drs. Tom Nesbitt and Jim Marcin and their colleagues in an effort to improve health care and the quality of life for the people of this State.

The FCC pilot program to expand broadband deployment throughout California is critical to expand access to healthcare services. The University of California, Davis, offers resources beyond just the School of Medicine to support this goal. For example, the College of Engineering has experts in telecommunications, information, and robotics technology who can contribute to this important project.

As a land grant institution, UC Davis has a mission to serve society's needs, with a special obligation to the people of Northern California. We are committed to outreach, and telemedicine is a key illustration of our achievement in reaching well beyond our

Mr Kevin J. Martin
May 5, 2007
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campus to work closely with communities. **As** a leading research institution, we also discover new knowledge and advance technology. This places UC Davis as **a** match for the goals of the FCC pilot - to expand access to healthcare and to implement innovative technology.

We are excited about this opportunity, and are prepared to support the state-wide expansion of telemedicine

Sincerely,



Larry N. Vanderhoef
Chancellor

/jdl

c. Vice Chancellor and Dean Pomeroy



OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
HUMAN HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
TELEPHONE (916) 734-7131
FAX: (916) 734-7055

UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM

4610 X STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95817
MEDICAL SCIENCES I-C
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

May 3, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

I am writing to strongly support the California proposal to the Federal Communications Commission Pilot Project. For the past months, I have worked closely with the consortium of stakeholders in our state to create what we believe is a unique proposal that blends technical innovation with cost effectiveness to achieve the ultimate goal of increasing access the healthcare services.

Since 1992, UC Davis has utilized technology to improve access to quality healthcare services. As Director of the Center for Health and Technology, I oversee a broad program that includes inpatient and outpatient clinical telemedicine, distance education, and medical informatics. We currently provide clinical and educational services to over eighty sites throughout California. In May of 2006, our program was given the President's Award from the American Telemedicine Association in recognition of our broad impact of the field of telemedicine. As an academic medical center, one of our mission areas is to share knowledge. Since 1999 we have trained over a thousand people around the world to implement telemedicine through our Telemedicine Learning Center. Similarly, we have technical assistance contracts with a variety of organizations seeking to increase access to care for underserved populations. We also work closely with the State of California in the area of disaster preparedness, specifically to implement telehealth and other technology support solutions.

UC Davis is prepared to play a leadership and resource role for the California FCC Pilot proposal. This role as "resource" for technical, operational and policy issues is similar to UC Davis' participation in the implementation of the Proposition 1D funding, so it is a natural fit for the FCC pilot project. Center for Health and Technology staff and faculty will work closely with the UC Office of the President and the consortium members to design, implement and monitor the network architecture. In addition, we

will continue our work in training and technical assistance to ensure that organizations who benefit from the FCC pilot funding have sustainable models to succeed beyond the grant period.

This pilot project is an exceptional opportunity for technical innovation and represents the next phase of telehealth in the nation. UC Davis is enthusiastic about participating in such a project and we encourage the Commission to give consideration to the California proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Nesbitt', written in a cursive style.

Thomas S. Nesbitt, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Association Dean,
Clinical and Administrative Affairs
Director, Center for Health and Technology
Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY
PRESIDENT

TEL: (415) 703-3703
FAX: (415) 703-5091

May 1, 2007

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Application of California re FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear  Chairman Martin:

As the Chairman of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Chairman of the Board of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), I am pleased to express my support and endorsement of the California's Telemedicine Application for the Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

The deployment of broadband technology throughout California is one of the CPUC's major goals. Recently, the CPUC formed a non profit organization, CETF, with voluntary donations of \$60 million from SBC and Verizon relating to their mergers with AT&T and MCI, respectively. The goal of the CETF is to bring broadband to unserved or underserved communities in California. As noted in the accompanying letter of support from Sunne Wright McPeak, CETF President and Chief Executive Officer, CETF has committed up to \$3.6 million over two years towards the 15% match required by the FCC for the California Telemedicine application. As the Chairman of the CETF Board, I wished to personally assure you that CETF, and the CPUC as well, are committed to bridging the digital divide in California and share the laudable goals of the Rural Health Care Pilot Program to bring telemedicine to our rural areas.

My colleague, Commissioner Rachelle Chong (a former FCC commissioner whom I know you have met), has helped lead and support the efforts of an unprecedented statewide group consisting of University of California, health care providers across the state, many

Chairman Kevin J. Martin

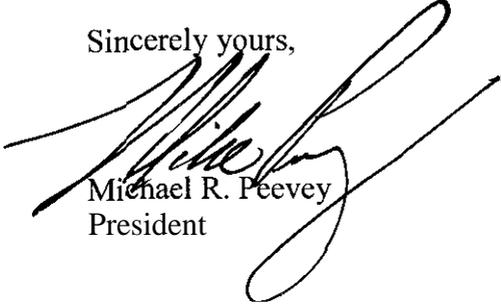
May 1, 2007

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state government agencies, and other stakeholders to craft this single California application for funding under the Rural Health Pilot Program. This group has worked very hard to prepare an application that we think is consistent with the FCC's stated goals **and** objectives in its order establishing this pilot program. I urge you to consider this California application carefully.

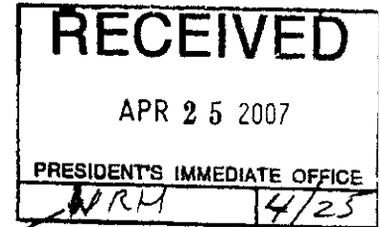
Thank you very much in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Feevey", written over a printed name and title.

Michael R. Feevey
President

Cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Secretary Dale Bonner, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO, CETF



April 24, 2007

President Robert Dynes
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607

*Please draft a
response for the
president*

*xc: RCL
BBD
LCH
SA
CMC*

Dear President Dynes:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) has committed up to **\$3.6 million** over two years towards the **15%** match required by the Federal Communications Commission for a Rural Telemedicine Pilot Project in California being submitted by the University of California on behalf of a consortium of collaborative partners. This action was taken by the CETF Board of Directors at their regular meeting on December **12, 2006**.

The California Emerging Technology Fund is a non-profit public benefit corporation established pursuant to orders from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in approving the mergers of SBC-AT&T and Verizon-MCI in **2005**. As a condition of the mergers, the companies are required to contribute to CETF a total of **\$60 million** over **5 years** as seed capital. As per the directive from the CPUC, the mission of the California Emerging Technology Fund is to provide leadership statewide to minimize the Digital Divide by accelerating the deployment of broadband technology and increasing adoption in underserved communities throughout California.

The California Emerging Technology Fund has researched the existing literature and conducted "fact finding" meetings throughout California to obtain input in preparing a Strategic Action Plan. The approved CETF Strategic Action Plan framework identifies telemedicine as a key strategy for driving deployment of broadband technology into underserved communities. Thus, CETF regards the California Rural Telemedicine Pilot Project proposal to the FCC as a very high priority for a matching grant. Further, CETF is committed to continuing to work with all the partners who have collaborated in preparing the California proposal to ensure that the FCC project is successful.

Sincerely,

Sunne Wright McPeak
President and Chief Executive Officer

c: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Secretary Dale Bonner, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

May 4, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership), we are pleased to endorse the University of California's Application for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program).

The accelerated deployment of broadband telecommunication technologies in the San Joaquin Valley, specifically for use in telemedicine, is one of the priorities of the Partnership's ten year strategic action plan, which was recently adopted by Governor Schwarzenegger. The FCC Pilot Program will complement and add value to our Advanced Communication Services tele-health initiative, which encourages public and private sector stakeholders to join with the San Joaquin Valley's rural health care providers in developing a strategy for the creation of a region- and statewide telemedicine network.

Together with an investment from the California Emerging Technology Fund, the FCC's funds will make quality health care more accessible to residents living in the Valley's rural areas. In addition, a grant was recently provided from the Partnership to the University of California Merced's tele-health initiative that is included in this proposal. The Partnership grant will help sustain the efforts of the FCC Pilot Program.

Again, please accept our strong support for University of California's application. We look forward to working with the FCC and the University of California to advance tele-health applications in the San Joaquin Valley.

Sincerely,

Connie Conway
Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Chair, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

5010 N Woodrow Ave.
2nd Floor, M/S WC 142
Fresno, California 93740

559.294.6021 T
559.294.6024 F



April 26, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Northern Sierra Rural Health Network (NSRHN) strongly supports the application of the University of California in response to the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program. NSRHN members consist of isolated rural health providers that are located hundreds of miles away from urban specialty centers. With the help of the FCC Rural Health Care Universal Service Program, NSRHN members have been able to expand access to care and improve quality through the use of telemedicine services since 2000.

The application submitted by the University demonstrates an unprecedented collaboration between public and private entities within the state of California. The dream to bring broadband services to remote corners of the state is now being realized through the commitment of the wide array of partners you **see** listed in the application. With the participation of the FCC, rural health providers that have long been disenfranchised from the benefits of technology can now take advantage of a state-of-the-art network that will provide security, high-speed, high-bandwidth connectivity at an affordable price.

NSRHN was one of many organizations from around the country that urged the FCC to **think** creatively of how it could expand the benefits of the rural health care program to more communities. **We** are **very** pleased that the FCC has launched this exciting program and we **look** forward to working with our partners in California to make this a successful model program that can be replicated in other parts **of** the country.

Sincerely,

SPERANZA AVRAM
Executive Director

138 New Mohawk Rd., Suite 100 Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 470-9091 FAX (530) 470-9094 E-mail: info@nsrhn.org

Officers

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Peter VanHouten, MD
NSRHN Treasurer
Sierra Family
Medical Clinic
Nevada City

Richard Hathaway
NSRHN Secretary
Plumas District
Hospital
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Directors

George Bliss, PA
Siskiyou Family
Healthcare, Inc
Yreka
Lynn Dorroh
Hill Country
Community Clinic
Round Mountain
Hank Foley
Plumas County
Public Health Agency
Quincy

Dean Germano
Shasta Community
Health Center
Redding

Teresa Jacques
Manager
HFS Solution
Oakland
Dave Jones
Mountain Valleys
Health Centers
Bieber

Michelle Joy
Banner Lassen Medical
Center
Susanville

Don Krouse, MD
Hayfork Medical Center
Weaverville

Cathy Larsen
Southern Trinity
Health Services
Mad River

Scott McFarland
Miners Community
Clinic

Nevada City
David Sulier

Business Development
CHW North State
Redding

Mike Wheeler
Shasta Regional
Medical Center
Redding

Executive Director
Speranza Avram
Nevada City



April 27, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commissions
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dr. Chairman Martin,

As CEO of Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, I am pleased to endorse the University of California's Application for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program).

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Sierra Telehealth Network, which is a part of that application and is a telemedicine network established in 2000 by our hospital. We were initially funded for this project by the California Telemedicine and e-Health Center, but we are now self-sustaining and performed 1236 interactive telemedicine visits last year. We are a small hospital that serves the remote high desert areas east of the Sierra Nevada mountain range and a medically underserved population with few medical specialists. We have no resident psychiatrists, pulmonologists, or intensivists and lack many other critically needed specialists. We are located 85 miles from the next largest hospital and more than two hours ambulance ride from the nearest tertiary care medical center. Telemedicine has been the only way that we can obtain psychiatric consultations in our area, for example, and we have extended those services and other specialty consults to critical access hospitals and other facilities in areas even more remotely located than our facility.

The accelerated deployment of broadband telecommunications technologies that the FCC Pilot Program would provide would greatly improve the capabilities of our network to provide health care services to our region, which serves patients from 12% of the land area of California but has a population of only 136,000.

Together with an investment from the California Emerging Technology Fund, the FCC's funds will make quality health care more accessible to Californians living in rural areas. In addition, successful implementation of the FCC Pilot Program in California will demonstrate how to effectively bring the benefits of broadband connectivity to health care providers and patients in rural areas around the nation.

We appreciate the opportunity to compete for federal funds that will provide much needed assistance to those living in California's rural areas and enable California providers to make our state's medical expertise available to rural areas throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Mechtenberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, vertical tail on the final letter.

David A. Mechtenberg, CEO



Central Valley Health Network

1107 Ninth Street Suite 810
Sacramento CA 95814
916 552 2846 / fax 444 2424
email cvhn@cvhnclinics.org

www.cvhnclinics.org

Caring for

California's

Heartland

April 26, 2007

Members

Clinica Sierra Vista

*Community
Medical Centers*

*Darin M. Camarena
Health Centers*

Del Norte Clinics

Family HealthCare Network

*Golden Valley
Health Centers*

*Inland Behavioral & Health
Services, Inc.*

Livingston Medical Group

National Health Services

*Sequoia Community
Health Centers*

*Tuife Community
Health Clinic*

*United Health Centers of
the San Joaquin Valley*

Valley Health Team

Chief Executive Officer

David Quackenbush

*Providing Quality Health
Services to the Medically
Underserved at 103 Central
Valley Locations in
19 Counties*

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Central Valley Health Network (CVHN), I am writing in support of the University of California's Application for a Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program). This application is evidence of collaboration between numerous health care providers throughout California which will be tantamount to the FCC Pilot Program's success. CVHN has been involved with the program development and is committed to the project.

CVHN is a consortium of 13 Federally Qualified Health Center nonprofit corporations that provide comprehensive, preventive primary care services throughout the Central Valley of California. CVHN Members operate 102 sites in 19 counties providing 2.2 million encounters to 500,000 patients annually. As CVHN is implementing its own Videoconferencing and Telemedicine project, we look forward to the FCC Pilot Program which will increase access to health care services in the Central Valley and shares in a common vision with CVHN.

As California continues to grow in underserved populations, rural areas of the Central Valley increase in needs but not in services. Telemedicine and eHealth are vital to increasing access in the Central Valley and are the only opportunity in some communities to increase health care services as the Central Valley has been historically neglected of vital services.

CVHN strongly encourages your support for this very important project and is committed to participate in this unique California collaboration.

Sincerely,

David Quackenbush
Chief Executive Officer



OPEN DOOR Community Health Centers

■ **Administration**

670 Ninth St., Suite 203
Arcata, CA 95521
Tel: 707-826-8633
Fax 707-826-8638

□ **Finance**

670 Ninth St., Suite 203
Arcata, CA 95521
Tel: 707-826-8627
Fax 707-822-2894

□ **Billing**

770 Tenth Street
Arcata, CA 95521
Tel: 707-826-8642
Fax 707-826-8611

□ **Corporate Services**

760 Fifteenth Street
Arcata, Ca 95521
Tel: 707-826-9926 x11
Fax 707-826-9928

• **Humboldt**

Open Door Clinic

770 Tenth Street
Arcata, CA 95521

• **Eureka Community Health Center**

2412 Buhne Street
Eureka, CA 95501

• **Burre Dental Center**

959 Myrtle Avenue
Eureka, CA 95501

• **Del Norte Community Health Center**

200 A Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

• **McKinleyville Community Health Center**

1644 Central Ave., Suite F
McKinleyville, CA 95519

• **NorthCountry Clinic**

785 Eighteenth Street
Arcata, CA 95521

• **Orick Health Center**

120918 Highway 101
Orick, CA 95555

• **Smith River Health Center**

110 First St, Suite B
Smith River, CA 95567

• **Mobile Health Services**

760 Fifteenth Street
Arcata, Ca 95521

■ **Telehealth and Visiting Specialist Center**

2426 Euhne Street
Eureka, CA 95501

April 26, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Open Door Community Health Centers (ODCHC) strongly supports the application of the University of California in response to the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program. Through our ten clinics and mobile dental van, the Open Door serves the isolated North Coast region of California, bringing vital specialty care to our rural region through our telemedicine network. Through funding support from Federal, State, local and private agencies, ODCHC has been able to expand access to care for the poor, underserved and uninsured through the use of telemedicine services since 1999.

We are very excited about the unparalleled collaboration that the University's proposal represents, and I firmly believe that the multilevel partnership will significantly improve the health of rural people across the state of California.

ODCHC has long been a leading advocate for rural issues, and has championed the potential of telemedicine to alleviate the disparities in access and quality of health care across economic and geographic barriers. The new FCC program is an important step toward improving the health and quality of life of rural America, and we look forward with excitement to working with our partners in California to make this a successful model program.

Sincerely,

Herrmann Spetzler
Chief Executive Officer

COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CLINICS

April 27, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Community Clinics Health Network (CCHN) strongly supports the application of the University of California in response to the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The Community Clinics Health Network (CCHN) is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit subsidiary of the Council of Community Clinics, founded in 1993 to provide managed care contracting and management support to San Diego's community health centers. Today, the mission of CCHN has broadened to include activities to enhance quality of care, improve population health outcomes and strengthen business efficiencies by offering specialized programs, services and technology expertise to over 30 community clinic and health center organizations. CCHN provides technical expertise in quality and operational management and managed care support including contracting, utilization review and credentialing. CCHN also provides quality improvement and disease management services and assistance to participating community health centers.

It is the vision of CCHN to be recognized as a national leader for creating model programs, sharing expertise, and providing exceptional services in collaborative healthcare ventures that result in stronger community clinics and health centers, as well as healthier communities. CCHN members consist of both isolated rural and urban specialty health providers that span Imperial, Riverside and San Diego Counties which are often hundreds of miles away from each other. With the help of the FCC Rural Health Care Universal Service Program, CCHN members have been able to expand access to care and improve quality through the use of telemedicine services since 2005.

The application submitted by the University demonstrates an unprecedented collaboration between public and private entities within the state of California. The dream to bring broadband services to remote comers of the state is now being realized through the commitment of the wide array of partners you see listed in the application. With the participation of the FCC, rural health providers that have long been disenfranchised from the benefits of technology can now take advantage of a state-of-the-art network that will provide security, high-speed, high-bandwidth connectivity at an affordable price.

Sincerely,

B. Kathlyn Mead
Chief Executive Officer



Indian Health Service
California Area Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 7-100
Sacramento, California 95814-4708

Mr. Kevin J. Martin,

Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

May 4, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin,

As the Area Director of the California Area Indian Health Service, I would like to comment on our working relationship and collaboration with the University of California, an applicant for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program).

The California Area began developing a telemedicine network in 2001. Since then, we have partnered with the California Telemedicine and e-Health Center and the University of California - Davis to leverage their impressive administrative and professional resources in Indian country. Based on the rural locations and widely dispersed population, the California Area Indian Health Service sees tele-health as a very cost-effective, patient friendly method of delivering health care resources to our underserved communities. Population sizes and dispersion of tribal groups in the California Area make it unlikely that a hospital-based service program will develop within the California Area. In order to provide services to our patients on a limited budget (annual per capita expenditures of \$1900, compared with national average of \$4500), we have only been able to extend this service delivery modality to 11 of our 34 tribal and urban Indian sites. One of the major capital investments has been the high costs associated with installing data lines and maintaining connectivity, due to the very rural location of many of the tribal health programs.

The American Indian population in California suffers from a high prevalence of diabetes, depression, substance abuse and unintentional injuries; all of which contribute to their early death and disability. Health disparities remain a significant challenge because of the current lack of access to inpatient and specialty health care services.

Through our relationship with the University Of California we have been able to utilize telemedicine services more easily in remote rural locations which have been historically medically underserved

Sincerely,

Margo Kemigan, MPH
California Area Director
Indian Health Service



Supporting the economic, social and environmental
well-being of California's Central Valley

May 5, 2007

201 Needham Street
Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: (209) 522-5103
Fax: (209) 522-5116
www.greatvalley.org

Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *California Application to FCC re Telemedicine Grant*

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Great Valley Center, I would like to urge your consideration and support for the University of California's application for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program).

The Great Valley Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, serving the 19 counties in the agricultural middle of California. The Center offers a number of programs relating to community and economic development, including the Central Valley Digital Network and Pixley Connect. Based on our experience in the region, we understand how rural isolation, especially isolation from advanced communication services, limits the rural residents' ability to partake of services and opportunities that are commonly available to people living in more densely populated and more affluent areas of the State and the Nation.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the Central Valley is growing faster than the country of Mexico, fueled by high birth rates and immigration, both legal and illegal. The Congressional Research Service, in a report issued in the spring of 2004, said the region has a per capita income lower than that of Appalachia and receives far less than state and national averages of federal dollars for all purposes. It is a region that historically has been underserved, both geographically and economically isolated from the rest of the state, existing on the outputs of a rich and productive agricultural economy. The Valley is also home to a very high percentage of individuals without health insurance or the means to be self funded.

While this proposal will not solve all the problems of rural California, it will provide service to large numbers of rural residents, especially in the Valley, create a model that can be replicated and sustained, and will provide a significant boost to increasing the value and use of advanced telecommunications services in California.

Chairman Martin
May 5, 2007
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The University and its Partners have sufficient experience to create and implement a sustainable project, and in so doing will add an important layer to the long term vision of ubiquitous access to advanced telecommunications services. The model can then be expanded, building on the physical and intellectual infrastructure that will be enhanced by this project.

Thank you for your consideration. Should the California application be chosen by the selection process, the visibility and credibility of its implementation will advance the **use** and adoption of high-speed communication, in California and across the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Whiteside". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the top.

Carol Whiteside
President



California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology
A UCSD/UCI PARTNERSHIP
www.calit2.net

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

May 4, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin,

As Director of the California Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), I am writing to strongly endorse the University of California's Application under the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program).

I am also a member of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Broadband Task Force (BTF), and I am convinced that the proposed rural telemedicine project is both necessary and beneficial to the region, to the state, and to the nation. The FCC Pilot Program complements the State of California's Health Information Technology and Broadband Initiatives, and it brings together private and public sector interests to advance this cause.

The institute which I lead, Calit2, has developed a number of telemedicine applications over the past four years. These projects will be immediately useful to clinicians in rural areas once the state's broadband infrastructure is extended. The FCC Pilot Project will allow us to leverage prior federal research investments and begin to improve the quality of care through telemedical applications. The most promising of these technologies is STRoKE-DOC, an NIH-funded clinical research project that is already proving effective through remote evaluation of stroke victims by stroke specialists of the UCSD Stroke Center. STRoKE-DOC has recently received additional funding from the State to be featured -- along with other Calit2 initiatives -- in the Southern California Telemedicine Learning Center (TLC), announced just yesterday.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this important proposal from the University of California and believe that these efforts represent an important first step in narrowing the urban-rural digital divide while improving health care throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Smarr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Smarr
Director

California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology

LARRY SMARR
Director

University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
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CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

April 27, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

As the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of California Hospital Association (CHA), I am pleased to endorse the University of California's Application for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program).

CHA is the statewide leader representing the interests of hospitals and health systems in California. CHA includes nearly 450 hospital and health system members, and more than 150 Executive, Associate and Personal members. The FCC Pilot Program will work hand-in-hand with our goal of providing every Californian equitable access to affordable, high-quality, medically necessary health care. Only through such practical, progressive steps as evidenced by the goals of this grant can the health status of Californians be improved. CHA is pleased to support this shared vision.

I hope that you will give strong consideration to the University of California's Application to the FCC Pilot Program. Their success in telemedicine speaks volumes about their ability to achieve the common goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to compete for the FCC Pilot funds. If awarded, the funds will provide much needed healthcare access to rural populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lois M. Suder".

Lois M. Suder
EVP/Chief Operating Officer

LMS:ag



April 27, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

As the Executive Director of California Telemedicine & eHealth Center (CTEC), I am pleased to endorse the University of California's Application for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program).

CTEC is a statewide resource center focused on developing the telemedicine and eHealth technological expertise of California health care organizations and providers through capacity building, training, education, networking and regranting for rural eHealth networks. The FCC Pilot Program will work hand-in-hand with our mission of expanding telemedicine and eHealth in California by working collaboratively with hospitals, clinics, county and state agencies, federal and state legislative policy-makers, community-based organizations, and other nonprofit entities throughout the state.

I hope that you will give strong consideration to the University of California's Application to the FCC Pilot Program. Their success in telemedicine speaks volumes about their ability to achieve the common goal.

Thank you for the opportunity for compete for federal funds and provide assistance to those individuals living in the state's rural areas, giving them the access to healthcare that all people should have.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Suder
Executive Director

LMS:ag

CPCA

California Primary
Care Association

Health Care Access for All

May 1, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

California Primary Care Association (CPCA) is pleased to support the application of the University of California for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program. CPCA represents more than 650 not-for-profit community clinics and health centers in California that provide comprehensive, quality health care services to primarily low-income, uninsured and underserved Californians. CPCA recognizes that telemedicine, particularly in California's rural areas, is a key delivery system that must be expanded and supported to provide high quality, timely, and cost-effective care at community clinics and health centers, along with other rural health care providers.

The University of California application represents a broad and unprecedented collaboration of public and private entities to address the challenge of improving health care delivery systems through expanding our broadband network. We strongly support the University in providing leadership for this project and are confident that University's experience with telemedicine will make this a highly successful project.

California's primary care clinics in rural areas will benefit greatly from the implementation of the FCC Pilot Program. CPCA, representing these safety net health care providers, looks forward to working with our partners in California in a successful collaborative effort to bring broadband connectivity to all California rural providers.

Sincerely,



Carmela Castellano-Garcia, Esq.
President and Chief Executive Officer



3720 Folsom Boulevard, Suite B • Sacramento, CA 95816
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*Committed to preserving and enhancing
health in rural California*

May 5, 2007

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Mr. Kevin J. Martin,
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

As Executive Director of the California State Rural Health Association (CSRHA), I am pleased to endorse the University of California's Application for the Federal Communication Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program (FCC Pilot Program). The California State Rural Health Association (CSRHA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization that works to improve the health of rural Californians and the quality and accessibility of the health care they receive. CSRHA brings together health care providers, consumers, educators, researchers, public health and economic development agencies and others to work on a variety of issues related to preserving and enhancing the health of rural California.

The accelerated deployment of broadband telecommunication technologies in California, specifically for use in telemedicine, is one of the top priorities of CSRHA. The FCC Pilot Program will complement and add value to our State's Health Information Technology and Broadband Initiatives, which encourage public and private sector stakeholders to join with California's rural health care providers in developing a strategy for the creation of a statewide telemedicine network.

Together with an investment from the California Emerging Technology Fund, the FCC's funds will make quality health care more accessible to Californians living in rural areas. Many of the challenges in rural health arise from limited access to core health care services. Lack of access to healthcare may mean that appropriate treatment is delayed or deferred, causing unnecessary hospitalizations, higher costs, and greater disability and personal suffering. Health information technology (HIT) provides powerful tools to enhance access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services in the most geographically isolated areas. HIT can assist rural providers to better coordinate services for their patients by bridging distances and providing immediate access to clinical knowledge, specialized expertise, and services otherwise unavailable in rural areas.



Please consider the submission from the University of California as the State's Application to the FCC Pilot Program. The University has a strong record of success in the area of telemedicine and is best suited to work with public and private sector stakeholders from throughout the state to achieve our common goals.

We appreciate the opportunity to compete for federal funds that will provide much needed assistance to those living in California's rural areas and enable California providers to make our state's medical expertise available to rural areas throughout the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Catherine Martin, Executive Director
California State Rural Health Association



Center for Information Technology
Research in the Interest of Society

CITRIS HEADQUARTERS
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May 4, 2007
File Number: 07-011

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Support for FCC Rural Telemedicine Infrastructure Grant

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), I am writing to express my support for the Proposal from the California Telehealth Network in Response to the Rural Health Care Pilot Order (FCC Oh-143). The planned activities resonate well with future plans at CITRIS, especially in our recent research and engineering initiatives in healthcare and telehealth, and I fully endorse your proposal. We further encourage leveraging the rural network for public services needs such as disaster preparedness, emergency response, academic research, public health, and health distance education.

Recent influential reports from the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Engineering and private foundations have noted the promise of telemedicine and the remote provision of care, and we fully and enthusiastically support work to improve the State of California's infrastructure for Telemedicine. As a four-campus (UCs Davis, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, and Merced), California State-funded Science and Innovation center, and the only one dedicated to information technology broadly defined, the history of CITRIS is punctuated by partnerships that benefit the State of California and its people.

As you know, CITRIS applies fundamental research in information technology, broadly defined, to many societal-scale problems, including energy, health care, services, disaster response, environmental monitoring, among other topics. Our work on healthcare and research into its future, the technologies of remote care, and technologies for rural and emerging regions will help to extend, sustain, and innovate the capabilities of the rural telehealth network, and we look forward to supporting your efforts and collaborating where appropriate. We also look forward to helping you engage those of our industrial partners interested in the remote provision of care, both by making them aware of this project, and by bringing them to help sustain and innovate in remote provision of care.

Sincerely,

Professor S. Shankar Sastry
Director,
Center for Information Technology Research
in the Interest of Society
284 Hearst Memorial Mining Building # 1764
Berkeley, CA 94720-1764

CC: Executive Director Ravi Nemana, Services: Science, Management & Engineering (CITRIS)