



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

TELEPHONE: (916) 734-7131  
FAX: (916) 734-7055

UC DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM

4610 X STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95817

January 31, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

RE: California Telehealth Network  
HCP 17211 Denial of Eligibility for 29 Entities

This letter supports the appeal by the California Telehealth Network (CTN) of the denial of 29 healthcare provider sites to participate in the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF). The UC Davis Health System urgently requests that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reverse this decision to allow non-rural healthcare providers that are not Federally Qualified Health Centers or HRSA designated Community Health Centers to participate consistent with the previous practices implemented under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP). UC Davis Health System supports the participation of these healthcare providers as an integral part of the emerging broadband enabled healthcare delivery system CTN provides in the State of California.

UC Davis Health System strongly supports the CTN consortium and understands the importance of the participation of rural and non-rural healthcare providers in the delivery of broadband enabled healthcare services. Non-rural healthcare organizations are vital to the sustainability and provision of specialty care and other vital resources to the rural communities of California.

The University of California supports patient care throughout the state of California. Many clinical encounters are done through telemedicine encounters, and others are through transfer or referral from community care provider. It is critical for optimal patient care for all California providers to have access to high speed and secure network connections to support all required aspects of telemedicine and sharing of patient data to support transfers and referrals. The Rural Health Care Pilot Program was designed to address the gap in small providers not having access to this type of networks, and these denials prevent the program goals from being accomplished fully.

We strongly urge the FCC to move quickly to reinstate the eligibility of these healthcare providers consistent with previous RHCPP practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Minear".

Michael Minear  
Chief Information Officer  
UC Davis Health System