



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 24, 2014

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senate
387 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kirk:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to clarify the meaning of the term “not-for-profit hospital.” Your views are important to me and will be considered as part of the Commission’s review of this matter.

As part of its oversight of the implementation of the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) program, the Commission has received questions regarding the definition of the term “not-for-profit-hospital” and its application to some health care providers. As you may know, “not-for-profit-hospital” is a statutory term that appears in Section 254(h)(7)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Commission staff is actively reviewing questions about the term’s definition and seek to reach a determination in as expeditious a manner as possible. In general, it is important that the types of health care consortia envisioned by the HCF program have the flexibility to include as members those entities that will provide as broad an array of telehealth and telemedicine applications as possible, while also ensuring the program maintains sufficient funding to aid the beneficiaries for which it is primarily intended: rural health care providers.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Wheeler