



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

I am writing to provide you with an update on efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to map the intersection of broadband connectivity and maternal health outcomes in the United States.

This is an issue that matters to me both professionally and personally, as the first woman to permanently lead the FCC and also as the first mother to do so. Like so many others, I find recent headlines about the state of maternal care across the country troubling. It is especially gutting to know that the United States has the highest level of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates of any developed country.

At this time, it is essential that we explore technologies that can improve obstetric care. Telehealth is clearly one of the most promising. It has the potential to revolutionize maternal healthcare, expanding services like prenatal checkups and postpartum support for millions—especially those in maternity care deserts. The United States should not be a place where an individual with a high-risk pregnancy, whose closest hospital birthing unit is hours away, has to travel several times a month for in-person appointments when a viable technological alternative exists at the other end of a broadband connection.

As you know, the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act directed the FCC to incorporate maternal health data into its Mapping Broadband Health in America platform. The agency took this task seriously and on June 20, 2023, first introduced this information on the platform, including public data about maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, as well as facts about race and ethnicity, maternal age, rurality, areas with maternity care deserts, and areas with shortages of mental health care providers.

Since the launch of this platform, the FCC has worked to engage a variety of stakeholders to evaluate what additional data we should incorporate into this effort. To this end, on October 20, 2023, the FCC released a Notice of Inquiry seeking input and ideas about how to expand, enhance, and refine the platform to help address maternal health outcomes and promote data driven decision making. On November 17, 2023, the FCC also co-hosted a roundtable with the Department of Health and Human Services on the "Connected Future of Maternity Care" to discuss the role of broadband as a social determinant of health, the implications of this framework to improve maternal health outcomes, and the importance of cross-agency, cross-sector coordination for leveraging broadband to help address the maternal health crisis facing our nation.

As a result of this engagement, we know that we can do more with this effort to support mothers and mothers-to-be. That is why next month the FCC will unveil its next significant update to the broadband health platform. This update will consolidate the chronic disease, opioid, and maternal health modules into one unified platform and introduce new broadband and maternal health data and analytics. These additions will go beyond the maternal health outcomes required by the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act to include critical risk factors identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The platform will also include new functionalities allowing users to delve deeper into the intersection of broadband connectivity and health in the United States.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



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October 17, 2024

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Cruz:

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October 17, 2024

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband
United States Senate
B240C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lujan:

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October 17, 2024

The Honorable John Thune
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband
United States Senate
253 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Thune:

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October 17, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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October 17, 2024

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Bob Latta
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latta:

I am writing to provide you with an update on efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to map the intersection of broadband connectivity and maternal health outcomes in the United States.

This is an issue that matters to me both professionally and personally, as the first woman to permanently lead the FCC and also as the first mother to do so. Like so many others, I find recent headlines about the state of maternal care across the country troubling. It is especially gutting to know that the United States has the highest level of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates of any developed country.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Doris Matsui
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Matsui:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rosen:

I am writing to provide you with an update on efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to map the intersection of broadband connectivity and maternal health outcomes in the United States.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

I am writing to provide you with an update on efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to map the intersection of broadband connectivity and maternal health outcomes in the United States.

This is an issue that matters to me both professionally and personally, as the first woman to permanently lead the FCC and also as the first mother to do so. Like so many others, I find recent headlines about the state of maternal care across the country troubling. It is especially gutting to know that the United States has the highest level of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates of any developed country.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Young:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

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This is an issue that matters to me both professionally and personally, as the first woman to permanently lead the FCC and also as the first mother to do so. Like so many others, I find recent headlines about the state of maternal care across the country troubling. It is especially gutting to know that the United States has the highest level of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates of any developed country.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis:

I am writing to provide you with an update on efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to map the intersection of broadband connectivity and maternal health outcomes in the United States.

This is an issue that matters to me both professionally and personally, as the first woman to permanently lead the FCC and also as the first mother to do so. Like so many others, I find recent headlines about the state of maternal care across the country troubling. It is especially gutting to know that the United States has the highest level of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates of any developed country.

At this time, it is essential that we explore technologies that can improve obstetric care. Telehealth is clearly one of the most promising. It has the potential to revolutionize maternal healthcare, expanding services like prenatal checkups and postpartum support for millions—especially those in maternity care deserts. The United States should not be a place where an individual with a high-risk pregnancy, whose closest hospital birthing unit is hours away, has to travel several times a month for in-person appointments when a viable technological alternative exists at the other end of a broadband connection.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
U.S. House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rochester:

I am writing to provide you with an update on efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to map the intersection of broadband connectivity and maternal health outcomes in the United States.

This is an issue that matters to me both professionally and personally, as the first woman to permanently lead the FCC and also as the first mother to do so. Like so many others, I find recent headlines about the state of maternal care across the country troubling. It is especially gutting to know that the United States has the highest level of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity rates of any developed country.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

October 17, 2024

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clarke:

I am writing to provide you with an update on efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to map the intersection of broadband connectivity and maternal health outcomes in the United States.

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