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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2018

Carolyn Clancy, M.D.  
Executive in Charge  
Veterans Health Administration  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Doctor Clancy,

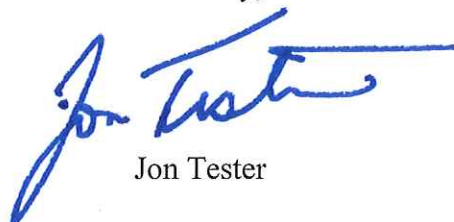
I write today regarding the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) delivery of health care to rural and underserved veterans through pilot programs aimed at promoting telehealth services. Veterans in rural and underserved areas, as well as veterans with lengthy commutes in urban areas, stand to benefit greatly from expanded telehealth services, particularly in areas lacking readily accessible broadband or cell service. While telehealth will not supplant vital, in-person health care services, we must foster its vital role, particularly in mental health care.

Earlier this week, my staff met with VHA's Telehealth Services office to discuss new ways to expand the progress and future direction of telehealth services. In order to make additional telehealth services a reality, it is vital to foster collaboration between Federal agencies. Earlier this year, my staff engaged the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), an agency reaching all Americans, to start a dialogue with VHA regarding the feasibility of piloting telehealth services in USPS facilities. In order to facilitate this inter-agency collaboration, I would like to connect Telehealth Services with interested stakeholders in the USPS. I was glad to learn the Telehealth Services staff expressed an openness to this idea during this week's briefing.

Mary Ann Simpson ([maryann.simpson@usps.gov](mailto:maryann.simpson@usps.gov) or (202) 268-3741), Government Relations Manager at USPS, is the point of contact at the USPS, along with Lauren Lee, Manager of Digital Solutions, and Adyani Torres, Manager of Client Services.

I look forward to learning about the outcome of the initial discussions between VHA and USPS on this issue, as well as VHA's partnerships with other government agencies and veterans' service organizations. I stand ready to assist in obtaining resources and authorities that may be required to make these partnerships a reality.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester