

The Honorable Jason Crow  
United States house of Representatives  
2170 S. Parker Rd, Suite 280  
Aurora, CO 80231



March 16, 2023

Dear Representative Crow,

On behalf of Colorado Access, I am pleased to offer strong support for the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for the e-Consult Rural Telehealth Software grant for the Peer Mentored Care Collaborative (PMCC) at the University of Colorado (CU) Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC).

As the CEO of Colorado Access (COA), my team and I are consistently engaged in efforts focused on increasing access to quality healthcare for patients across our regions. We are all aware of the lack of specialty care access in numerous underserved areas, which can result in patients and their families not receiving the care they need, when they need it, and where they need it. The PMCC's e-consult effort has already shown great promise to reduce wait times and increase access to a broad range of specialty care.

As you may know COA is the Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) for two regions of the state, we are responsible for the care of over 650,000 Medicaid members, many of whom are vulnerable individuals facing enormous structural barriers to accessing the high value care available at the AMC. Improving their access requires concerted efforts on the part of many institutions, both at the AMC and organizations like ours across the state. We have many conversations engaging Colorado Medicaid and the AMC and this CDS request will advance an innovative healthcare technology that will allow our providers to partner with AMC specialists to extend access to specialty care to vulnerable populations and to improve workforce development across the state.

In short, Congressman Crow, funding this CDS request for the eConsult Rural Telehealth Software is the type of approach that is needed to support access to specialty care for underserved patients while controlling costs without compromising quality. We at Colorado Access are, thus, fully supportive of this request.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annie H Lee", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Annie H Lee, JD  
President and CEO

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coaccess.com

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The Honorable Jason Crow  
United States House of Representatives  
2170 S. Parker Rd, Suite 280  
Aurora, CO 80231

March 17, 2023

Dear Representative Crow,

On behalf of the Colorado Area Health Education Center (COAHEC), and as its State director, I appreciate the opportunity to write a letter of support on behalf of the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for the **e-Consult Rural Telehealth** Software grant at the University of Colorado (CU) Anschutz Medical Campus. I am uniquely qualified to give my unconditional support for this request to allow the Peer Mentored Care Collaborative (PMCC) at CU Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) to continue their crucial work in extending access to specialty care to rural populations.

The PMCC have regularly collaborated with COAHEC as we are both focused on rural-based training and clinical support. As well, we are equally and highly engaged in a range of efforts to extend the reach of the AMC to support rural primary care providers with clinical support tools that allow them to meet their community's health needs and improve workforce development across the state. We are both aware of the lack of specialty care access in numerous underserved areas, which can result in patients and their families not receiving the care they need, when they need it, and where they need it. The PMCC's e-consult effort has already shown great promise to reduce wait times, increase access to broad range of specialty care, and to do so at a reduced cost to payers - both Medicaid and commercial plans.

The e-consult web-based software application allows for a data-informed, asynchronous exchange of clinical information and patient care recommendations providing community-based, primary care providers the ability to manage a range of conditions with remote support by AMC-based specialists bringing remote patients face-to-face with an appointment at the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) while staying in their remote location. The PMCC's e-consult system improves communication and collaboration between PCPs and specialists, reduces the potential for fragmented care, promotes enhanced coordination of care, and ultimately improves access to care while lowering costs for both the patient and the entire system.

Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are the backbone of the health care safety net in the United States, providing care for millions of people. And although FQHCs provide excellent access to primary care, they often struggle to obtain access to specialty care, particularly for patients without insurance or with Medicaid. Providing the e-consult software to rural FQHCs would help residents of those communities provides new options to enhance coordination of care and improve the efficiency of the interface between primary care and specialists, improving wait times, reducing burden and promoting an innovative new approach to improve access to specialty care for patients cared for in safety net clinics. At COAHEC, we are continually focused on improving workforce distribution throughout Colorado, particularly among populations in rural and underserved areas and we will remain focused on developing and maintaining a health care workforce that is prepared to deliver high quality care in a transforming health care delivery system with an emphasis on those communities.

In short, Mr. Crow, funding this CDS request for the **eConsult Rural Telehealth Software** is the type of approach that is needed to **support access to specialty care for underserved patients while controlling costs without compromising quality**. We at the Colorado Area Health Education Center are, thus, fully supportive of this request. Thank you again for the opportunity to write a letter of support and please don't hesitate to contact us with additional questions if necessary.

Sincerely,

Josina Romero O'Connell, MD



Children's Hospital Colorado

www.childrenscolorado.org

The Honorable Jason Crow  
United States house of Representatives  
2170 S. Parker Rd, Suite 280  
Aurora, CO 80231

March 16, 2023

Dear Representative Crow,

On behalf of the Children's Hospital Colorado and as its Vice President Advocacy and Community Health, I am pleased to offer strong support for the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for the e-Consult Rural Telehealth Software grant for the Peer Mentored Care Collaborative (PMCC) at the University of Colorado (CU) Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC).

As the VP for Advocacy and Community Health at Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO), I am consistently engaged in efforts focused on increasing access to quality healthcare for patients across our state and region, many children and their families face enormous structural barriers to accessing the high value care available at the AMC and through its providers, both adult and pediatric. Improving their access requires concerted efforts on the part of many institutions, both at the AMC and those who partner with us across the state and region. This CDS request is part of the AMC taking an important step to continue their crucial work in extending access to specialty care to rural populations and to improve workforce development across the state.

We are all aware of the lack of specialty care access in numerous underserved areas, which can result in patients and their families not receiving the care they need, when they need it, and where they need it. The PMCC's e-consult effort has already shown great promise to reduce wait times and increase access to broad range of specialty care.

In short, Mr. Crow, funding this CDS request for the eConsult Rural Telehealth Software is the type of approach that is needed to support access to specialty care for underserved patients while controlling costs without compromising quality. We at CHCO are, thus, fully supportive of this request.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

Zach Zaslow

The Honorable Jason Crow  
United States house of Representatives  
2170 S. Parker Rd, Suite 280  
Aurora, CO 80231

March 17, 2023

Dear Representative Crow,

On behalf of Salud Family Health Centers and as its Medical Director, I am pleased to offer strong support for the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request for the e-Consult Rural Telehealth Software grant for the Peer Mentored Care Collaborative (PMCC) at the University of Colorado (CU) Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC).

As you may know, Salud is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) operating in 13 locations, 10 school sites and mobile unit offering medical, dental, pharmacy and behavioral health care for low-income, medically underserved populations. Since 1970, we have been consistently engaged in efforts focused on increasing access to quality healthcare for patients across our regions and have been committed to providing care to all community members regardless of finances, insurance coverage or ability to pay. We are all aware of the lack of specialty care access in numerous underserved areas, which can result in patients and their families not receiving the care they need, when they need it, and where they need it. The PMCC's e-consult effort has already shown great promise to reduce wait times and increase access to broad range of specialty care.

As you may know Salud is part of the Northeast Health Partners Regional Accountable Entity (RAE), an organization responsible for the care of patients over 23,000 square miles, with six communities meeting the rural designation of frontier as well as an urban area around Greeley, CO. Over that region we are responsible for the care of many vulnerable individuals and their families who face enormous structural barriers to accessing the high value care available at the AMC. Improving their access requires concerted efforts on the part of many institutions, both at the AMC and organizations like ours across the state. We have partnered with the AMC for the use of econsults to benefit our patients and their families and feel confident that this CDS request will allow for the expansion of this innovative healthcare technology that will allow more providers to partner with AMC specialists to extend access to specialty care to vulnerable populations and to improve workforce development across the state.

In short, Congressman Crow, funding this CDS request for the eConsult Rural Telehealth Software is the type of approach that is needed to support access to specialty care for underserved patients while controlling costs without compromising quality. We at the Salud Family Health Centers are, thus, fully supportive of this request.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Farley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tillman Farley, MD  
Chief Medical Officer Emeritus  
Salud Family Health



**Leprino Building**  
Office of the Chief Medical Officer

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[uchealth.org](https://www.uchealth.org)

March 17, 2023

The Honorable Jason Crow  
United States House of Representatives  
2170 S. Parker Rd., Suite 280  
Aurora, CO 80231

Dear Representative Crow,

On behalf of UCHealth, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support on behalf of this community-directed spending request for the expansion of the eConsult program utilizing specialists from the University of Colorado (CU) Anschutz Medical Campus. We value the partnership we have with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus to improve access to specialty care across the State of Colorado.

The eConsult program allows for a data-informed, asynchronous exchange of clinical information and patient care recommendations providing community-based primary care providers (PCPs) the ability to manage a range of conditions with the support of Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) based specialists, bringing remote patients face-to-face with an appointment at the AMC while staying in their remote location. eConsults improve communication and collaboration between PCPs and specialists, reduces the potential for fragmented care, promotes enhanced coordination of care, and ultimately improves access to care while lowering costs for both the patient and the entire system. UCHealth and the CU Anschutz Campus currently provide eConsult support to underserved communities through technologies that interface with our electronic medical record (EMR), allowing specialists to respond to primary care requests for support efficiently, and as part of their everyday workflows. These existing processes could be expanded to reach individuals in rural communities across Colorado with grant funding support.

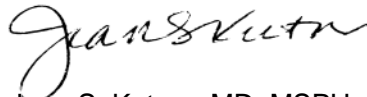
Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are the backbone of the health care safety net in the United States, providing care for millions of people. Although FQHCs provide excellent access to primary care, they often struggle to obtain access to specialty care, particularly for patients without insurance or with Medicaid. Providing eConsults to rural FQHCs provides new options to enhance coordination of care and improve the efficiency of the interface between primary care and specialists, improving wait times, reducing burden, and promoting an innovative new approach to improve access to specialty care for patients cared for in safety net clinics.

On behalf of UCHHealth, I endorse funding this CDS request for the expansion of the UCHHealth/CU Anschutz Medical Campus' eConsult program, an approach that enhances access to specialty care for underserved patients, while controlling costs without compromising quality.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MER', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Margaret E. Reidy, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
UCHHealth

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jean S. Kutner', written in a cursive style.

Jean S. Kutner, MD, MSPH  
Chief Medical Officer, University of Colorado Hospital  
Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for  
Clinical Affairs