



Press Statement

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MMTC Salutes the FCC's Connect2Health Task Force 'Mapping Broadband Health in America' Platform

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 8, 2017): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) commends the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and its Connect2Health Task Force on today's announcement of updates to the FCC's complete annual fixed broadband and health data sets. The Task Force's *Mapping Broadband Health in America* platform clearly identifies the nation's rural counties that have a critical need for fast broadband to facilitate humane and accessible public health.

As the Commission states, "Notably, counties that need broadband for health the most, tend to have it the least. Forty-two percent of rural 'critical need' counties, representing over 2 million people, had worsening broadband and health metrics." MMTC agrees that this is a vital gap that needs to be filled.

MMTC President and CEO Kim Keenan issued the following statement:

"The FCC's Connect2Health initiative could not be more timely. America has a responsibility to provide equal access to healthcare for all, including low-income, elderly, isolated, and rural Americans, a significant proportion of which are multicultural populations. To fulfill this responsibility, we need accurate, current data on what MMTC calls 'healthcare and broadband deserts.'

"The Connect2Health Task Force's mapping and data analysis also ties in perfectly with Chairman Pai's Gigabit Opportunity Plan, which proposes to incentivize carriers to build high-speed broadband in underserved rural counties. As Chairman Ajit Pai, Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, and Commissioner Michael O'Rielly have each recognized, fast broadband for all is essential to securing state-of-the-art health care for all."

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.