***Date, 2020***

The Honorable

Representative ***full name of congressman***

***Address***

Dear Representative ***name***:

I am writing to first express my gratitude for Congress paving the way for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to provide telemedicine services by allowing RHCs to be Distant Site Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Our Rural Health Clinic, ***your clinic***, located in ***city****,* WA, ***country name*** County, ***describe clinic services***. ***Describe briefly how telehealth would benefit your patients.***

Now that RHCs are allowed to provide telemedicine visits during the Pandemic, we are doing our best to care for those patients through telemedicine so they can stay safely at home. However, our costs associated with these visits are no less than our costs for face-to-face visits. Our medical assistants still call the patient to verify medications, health history, etc., get the meeting set up between provider and patient, and process all prescription refills ad requests on their behalf. Yet, we are paid just $92.03 while our all-inclusive rate (AIR) is currently ***$* .** In addition, we are now asked to carve out the costs/time involved in providing telemedicine services in order to compute our new AIR, which will likely reduce our AIR even further. Since our AIR is based on our cost, we respectfully request your support for HR 6793 Improving Telehealth for Underserved Communities Act of 2020, which will:

1. Pay our all-incluisive rate (AIR) for telemedicine visits rather than the composite rate of $92.03, which is a fraction of our cost in providing those services.
2. Include telehealth services costs rather than carving those costs out in the calculation to determine our AIR.

We also ask that you make permanent the allowance for RHCs to be distant site providers in order to better serve rural patients in our community through the expanded avenue of telehealth services.

Again, we thank CMS for granting RHCs to be Distant Site Providers during this Pandemic. To take care of our remote and underserved patient population, implementing the above requests would make it financially feasible to continue to provide much needed and welcome telehealth services.

Sincerely,

***Your signature block***