



November 21, 2019

U.S. Senator Steve Daines  
104 4<sup>th</sup> Street North, Ste. 302  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dear Senator Daines:

On behalf of our University of Providence community, we want to personally thank you for your support in our having been awarded the recent U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) in the amount of \$441,357. As Charles Robison, State Director for USDA said, “when rural Montana thrives, all of Montana thrives.” This grant provides an unprecedented opportunity to deliver the highest quality academic clinical education to rural and placebound students in rural Montana.

Together our partnerships with rural Central Montana communities, Salish-Kootenai College, and clinical simulation experts will help us deliver distance and clinical simulation education to remote and placebound students. The collaborative project will also help build the future rural Montana clinical workforce through partnering with Central Montana high schools to expose promising rural students to health careers and to help them gain access to academic education in nursing and other health careers.

We are very excited to begin our work, and beginning means first acknowledging how we got here. It is much to your credit. As the President at the University of Providence and the primary investigator for the project, we are confident this distance learning telemedicine project will meet its expected goals and outcomes and hopefully exceed our expectations.

Thank you for being such an advocate for the health of our rural communities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Oliver Doyle'.

Very Reverend Oliver Doyle  
Interim President  
University of Providence

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deborah Burton'.

Deborah Burton, PhD, RN, FAAN  
VP, School of Health Professions  
University of Providence