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Dr. Melanie Miller, *Director of Schools*

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

TO: USAC Schools and Libraries Program

I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding the proposal to phase down Voice Services in the ERATE program and to encourage you to continue the Voice funding through the USAC Schools and Libraries Program. The phase down of the Voice funding has drastically affected our technology budget, and we do not have increasing revenues in our small community to offset those losses.

We are grateful for our Category Two funding which does assist in connectivity, but the opportunity for full access to that funding is diminished because it's difficult to fund the non-discount share of Category Two given the loss of funding for Voice. We know that the voice lines in school system is paramount to the safety of our students and the timely communication with parents, stakeholders, and law enforcement. The funding to pay for telephone service must be reallocated in our already tight budget which reduces our available portion for the Category Two options. Ultimately this results in less technology and few learning opportunities for our children who are already an underserved population in our rural community.

We respectfully request the consideration of USAC reinstating Voice funding for the betterment of our children's education. Please reconsider the phase down, our district desperately needs this funding.

Thank you for your concern and reflection on this issue.

Sincerely,

Melanie Miller, Ph.D.
Director of Schools

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