

# VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region

Serving Bennington and Rutland Counties

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA," File ID 1114050901562) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

As Rutland County's only not-for-profit home health agency, VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region works tirelessly to provide home health, hospice and community services to the entire region, including vulnerable populations such as at-risk children, the elderly, those with disabling and chronic illness, and people facing the end of life. It is important that we communicate to our community these critical services we offer, and how such services can be accessed. We rely heavily on our monthly PEGTV show, "Homecare Connection," to communicate such information. Without PEGTV, there is simply no equivalent to reach 20,000+ Rutland County residents in such an efficient and cost-effective way.

#### MAIN OFFICE

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#### REFERRALS

Main 802.770.1550  
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This local presence enables the residents of our county to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.


We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,



Ron Cioffi

CEO, VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region



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