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**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Access Charge Reform	)	CC Docket No. 96-262
	)	
Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers	)	CC Docket No. 94-1
	)	
Transport Rate Structure and Pricing	)	CC Docket No. 91-213
	)	
Usage of the Public Switched Network by Information Service and Internet Access Providers	)	CC Docket No. 96-263
	)	

**COMMENTS OF A CONCERNED EDUCATOR & CONSUMER.**

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**Per-Minute Access Charges would severely and selectively damage the  
educational opportunities for low and middle income students  
and consumers whose access to the Internet will continue  
to depend on local telephone companies.**

One of the innumerable benefits of the Internet is that it offers students and consumers affordable and simple means for access to a wealth of vital information that formerly restricted to those who have extensive and expensive education. Public schools and private consumers have recognized this fact and extensively use the immense cultural opportunities that are offered by the

world wide web to students and consumers. However, these benefit can only be realized by all students and consumers if access remains affordable to all people.

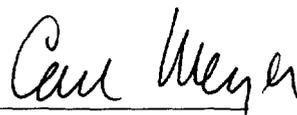
If local telephone companies were allowed to implement timed access charges, or institute other types of surcharges for Internet access, then low and middle income consumers - and the parents of low and middle income student - would be selectively penalized and discouraged, because students require more time for browsing, searching and downloading of information than adults, and since low and middle income consumers lack the skill, training and finances that are necessary to acquire and use the sophisticated technology that is necessary to minimize access time.

Therefore, the FCC should reject unsubstantiated and uneconomic claims that timed interexchange carrier access charges should be imposed upon the parents of students, and other consumers to fund inefficient circuit-switched infrastructure. Instead, the FCC should seek to create maximum incentives to promote the deployment of low-cost and affordable data-capable networks that can benefit all consumers.

Thank you for your consideration

Dated February 5, 1997

Respectfully submitted,



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