

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

We are faculty and staff from Mt. Harmony Elementary School in Calvert County, Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

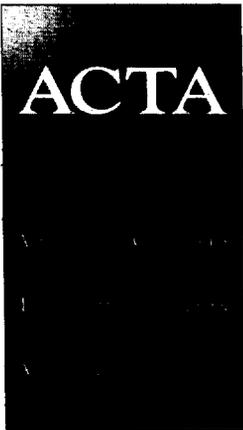
The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all of our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunication services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mt. Harmony Elementary Staff

*Lileen Rowland*  
*Jarica Shaner*  
*Prudence M. Waby*  
*Shirley Jackson*  
*Chris Baults*  
*Marbarrun hingle*



CC96-45

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 30, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Commissioner Rachel Chong  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong,

Thank you for meeting with me and with members of America's Carriers Telecommunication Association (ACTA) on April 15, 1997. I appreciate both the time and the interest you gave to ACTA's Universal Service and Access Charge Reform positions. I regret that we didn't have more time to explore all the issues, but I do value the opportunity we had to share with you the concerns that are most pressing to the small carrier.

ACTA represents small and mid-sized telecommunications carriers. In our estimation it is our membership, more than any other group, that has fueled the growth of competition in the telecommunications industry. ACTA believes access charges are currently priced at \$11 Billion above cost. These access charges effectively represent sanctioned over-funding of our competitors and are contra to the goals established by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

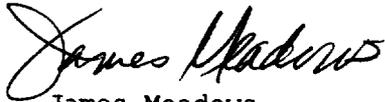
ACTA members, while funding RBOC entry into long distance, are faced with RBOC's efforts to thwart our efforts to compete in local services. As we discussed at our meeting, the examples of these anti-competitive practices range in scope from total unresponsiveness to excessive and lengthy training prerequisite sessions. Although these practices may appear manageable on an individual basis, they are extremely effective against the small and mid-sized carriers who cannot financially survive the waiting game. ACTA supports a full distribution of the \$11 Billion access charges in excess of cost to achieve a fully supported Universal Service Fund, complete funding for schools and libraries, and a net access charge reduction of \$7 Billion over four years.

It is our position that this is the most effective and reasonable way to achieve national public policy goals, a vibrant competitive industry, and still not adversely affect the financial health of the RBOC's. ACTA believes it is only through a dramatic net reduction to current access charges that the American people will see sustained downward competitive pressure on the cost of their telecommunications. Since deregulation of the telecommunications industry the American people have reaped the reward of lower long distance rates and greater provider choice. At the same time the telecommunications industry has experienced higher growth and profitability than almost any other industry in our nation.

The current access charge reform rulemaking offers a new opportunity for both the American people and the telecommunications industry to be served.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to talk with you again or answer any questions you may have so that we may achieve our common goal of a healthy competitive industry.

Regards,



James Meadows  
President  
America's Carriers Telecommunication Association

JM:jdj

cc: ACTA Board of Directors

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED  
MAY 5 1997  
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

*Joanne Vaughn*

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**  
6020 Pontiac Lake Road  
Waterford, Michigan 48327-1847

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC96-45  
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**HOWARD T. HEITZEG**  
Superintendent of Schools

PHONE: (810) 666-2222  
VOICE MAIL: (810) 666-6699 Ext: 6-2222  
FAX: (810) 666-2558  
INTERNET: 73554.121@compuserve.com

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.



April 28, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 844  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

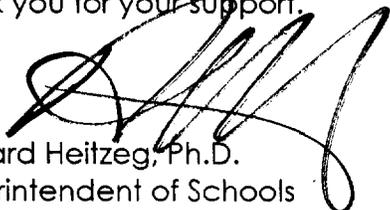
Chairman Hundt made a presentation at the Secretary of Education's Conference on Educational Technologies two years ago and spoke of an educational rate that would provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications. His remarks were well received and I am glad to see that he is a man of his word and that this proposal is now coming to fruition.

I thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the information superhighway. The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students. This joint effort between the government and business will provide schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

If our students are truly to be competitive, it will take the efforts of government, business, and education working together to provide for the best educational environment for these students. Telecommunication is the wave of the future and must be supported by all who serve education.

In closing, I urge the FCC to fully support the joint Board's discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in this nation.

Thank you for your support.

  
Howard Heitzeg, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

/de

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## EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 1, 1997

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 1919 M St. NW, Room 844  
 Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong:

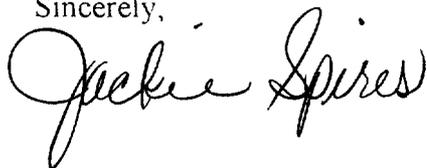
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There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

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I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



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# Downey Unified School District

Gallegos Administration Center

11627 Brookshire Avenue, P.O. Box 7017, Downey, California 90241-7017  
(310) 904-3500, FAX: (310) 923-4690

**Board of Education**

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*Superintendent*

Edward A. Sussman, Ed.D.

April 23, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner (California)  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

RECEIVED  
MAY 5 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Superintendent of the Downey Unified School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Currently, we are remodeling some of our schools for Internet access and negotiating with Internet service providers. Unfortunately, we are finding that present costs are prohibitively high and prevent us from connecting every classroom and giving every student access.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications service this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Sussman, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent

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# Vacaville Unified School District

751 School Street • Vacaville, California 95688-3987



(707) 446-7480

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MAY 5 1997

**Board of Education**

- Larry R. Mazzuca  
President
- Katherine Brannon  
Vice President
- Sarah E. Chapman  
Clerk
- Kathleen M. Collier
- Nicholas D. Esplin
- Bill Hausler
- Patricia M. (Bradani) Mylott
- Richard E. Jackson  
Superintendent &  
Board Secretary

April 18, 1997

Ms. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Chong:

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-RATE" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected School Board Member from the Vacaville Unified School District and I would like to express my strong support for this Program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Federal-State Joint Board Discount Plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the Country and, more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the Discount Program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC Commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the Discount Plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Esplin  
Board of Education  
Vacaville Unified School District

NE:lm

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# Vacaville Unified School District

751 School Street • Vacaville, California 95688-3987



(707) 449-9531

## Board of Education

Larry R. Mazzuca  
President

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Vice President

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Kathleen M. Collier

Nicholas D. Esplin

Bill Hausler

Patricia M. (Bradani) Mylott

Richard E. Jackson  
Superintendent &  
Board Secretary

April 18, 1997

Ms. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

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I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-RATE" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected School Board Member from the Vacaville Unified School District and I would like to express my strong support for this Program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Federal-State Joint Board Discount Plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the Country and, more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the Discount Program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC Commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the Discount Plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Brannon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Katherine Brannon, Vice President  
Board of Education  
Vacaville Unified School District

KB:lm



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MAY 5 1997

**ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT**  
A REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 23, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As President of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Board of School Directors, I can assure you that our financial resources are being stretched to the limit. We face a constant struggle to meet the ever increasing demands being placed on our school district without sufficient funding to support our efforts. The proposed discounts will be a vital link in our efforts to expand the use of technology in our classrooms.

The AIU Board encourages you to support the original plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

William R. Segar, President  
AIU Board of Directors

WRS:ec

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CC96-45

# MHA

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

FAX: (573) 893-2609  
Phone: (573) 893-3700

Mailing address:  
P.O. BOX 80  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0060

Street address:  
4712 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65109-4541

## memo

May 5, 1997

Post-It <sup>®</sup> Fax Note, 7671		Date 5/5/97	# of pages 1
To Eileen Duff	From Nick Nichols		
Cap/Dept. Commissioner Rachelle Chong	Com. Group. Assoc.		
Phone # 202/418-2200	Phone # 573/893-3700, 1318		
Fax # 202/418-2833	Fax # 573/893-2809		

TO: Eileen Duff  
Office of Commissioner Rachelle Chong

MAY 5 1997

FROM: Palmer R. "Nick" Nichols, II  
Director, Career Development

SUBJECT: FCC Vote on Telecommunications Policy

In rural areas, future access to affordable health care may depend on a community's ability to offer telemedicine services.

On Wednesday, May 7, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on a "universal service" policy, which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) urges Commissioner Chong to support directing telecommunications rate subsidies to rural health care providers.

In Missouri, we have rural hospitals paying as high as \$60,000 per year for a dedicated telephone line that transmits teleradiography imaging to a metropolitan hospital less than 100 miles away. That is a standard charge with or without transmissions. Additionally, most rural Missouri hospitals have not pursued implementing telemedicine or teleradiography in their service area because of the cost associated with it.

The Internet is a valuable tool for the provision of many health care services, particularly in the area of public health. MHA has a web site that provides important health care updates and resources for Missouri, and currently, a little over half of its hospital and health system members have access to the Internet. MHA estimates that the percent is even lower for businesses and individuals located in rural areas of Missouri because of their need to pay toll charges to reach Internet Service Providers.

By supporting universal service, Commissioner Chong will close the gap between the levels of health care services available in metropolitan areas and those in rural areas, increase access to health care in rural areas, greatly improve the quality of health care services and lessen the costs of providing health care in rural areas.

Thank you for your consideration and support for directing telecommunications rate subsidies to rural health care providers.

PRN/bsm

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CC 96-45

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P. O. Box 791

400 East Chestnut St

Phone (405) 888-3363

Fax (405) 888-2248

Al Allee, CEO

MAY 5 1997

*Harmon Memorial Hospital*

Medical Services Division

May 5, 1997

Eileen Duff

Dear Eileen:

We are writing to urge your support to provide long distance subsidies to make telemedicine cost more equitable in the rural areas. We are a small rural hospital in southwest Oklahoma located 90 miles from the nearest tertiary medical facility. The cost of long distance puts us in the position of having to evaluate whether or not we can afford telemedicine services in our community. Your support for subsidizing these long distance charges would be very much appreciated.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Al Allee, CEO

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# Santa Maria-Bonita School District



Gail M. Tissier, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

SOUZA STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER  
708 South Miller Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6221  
(805) 928-1783, Ext. 235

May 1, 1997

SENT VIA FACSIMILE & U. S. MAIL

Ms. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 844  
Washington DC 20554

RECEIVED  
MAY 5 1997

Dear Ms. Chong:

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District, located on the Central Coast of California, is involved in implementing its long-range technology plan. Because most of our schools are over 30 years old, each needs to be rewired to meet the demands of technology. We have gone to bid for the wiring of our classrooms and each time the cost has been prohibitive.

It is our understanding that on May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on the final rules for dispersing as much as \$2.25 billion in telecommunications discounts for schools and libraries. This truly is a miracle! Our schools drastically need this support to bring educational technology to our children to meet the demands of the 21st Century.

Our school board set aside some money, however, it is not enough to bring the infrastructure of educational technology to our students' classrooms. Also, if we use this money to wire our schools then there will be no money left to purchase the hardware and software necessary to integrate our curriculum with the wonderful software support systems that presently exist for children.

**The Santa Maria-Bonita School District strongly encourages the FCC to approve the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service for implementation of the discount plan to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.**

Our school district has a very high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. These students need all the help and support that can be provided to assist them in reaching high academic standards. By approving the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations for implementation of the discount plan, you will greatly help bring about the academic success of our students.

Our students will truly be engaged in a global world of communications broadening their understanding of the world in which they live. Please make this miracle become a reality for our students by voting to approve the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations.

Sincerely,

*Gail M. Tissier*  
GAIL M. TISSIER, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

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- c SMBSD Board of Education
- The Honorable Barbara Boxer
- The Honorable Walter Capps
- The Honorable Diane Feinstein
- State Superintendent Delaine Eastin
- California Public Utilities Commission

*Student Success Is Our Business*

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CC96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am an educator from Fort Sage Unified School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of school across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the work force of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. West  
Teacher, Fort Sage Unified School District

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MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20541

**MERCY**  
HIGH SCHOOL

1300 E. Northern Parkway  
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998  
410-433-8880  
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Erica Barden, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Erica Barden

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 30, 1997

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MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Ms. Chong:

We have been informed that two issues currently before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) could significantly increase telecommunications costs to higher education institutions and other large multi-line business users.

One proposal may raise the cap on business multi-line subscriber line charges (SLC) and add a pre-subscribed line (PSL) surcharge. A decision by the FCC to implement this proposal could result in an increase in monthly charges of as much as \$1,672.00 at The University of Southern Mississippi.

The other proposal of concern is the reduction in interstate access charges by 40 to 50%. We have a telephone system behind a university owned private branch exchange (PBX), and receive revenue for long distance calls terminating on our system. Revenues from terminating these calls could be cut by up to \$2,000.00 or more each month at this institution.

As we understand it, the purpose of these proposals is compliance with the telecommunications act of 1996, and in particular to establish rules for discounted telecom services for K - 12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities subsidized through the universal fund. While the cause seems worthy, we doubt the intent was for universities and colleges to subsidize the discounts for K - 12 schools, especially since we provide education and libraries too.

As a non profit, state supported institution of higher learning, our budget would be significantly impacted if the proposals are implemented. We request the proposals be amended to exclude colleges and universities.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Henderson  
Vice President for Business & Finance

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MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC

**MERCY  
HIGH SCHOOL**

1300 E. Northern Parkway  
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998  
410-433-8880  
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Terri Pohl, Technology Coordinator, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

*Terri Pohl*

Terri Pohl

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of General Counsel

**MERCY  
HIGH SCHOOL**

1300 E. Northern Parkway  
Baltimore, MD 21239-1998  
410-433-8880  
FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Joyce Rizzi, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

*Joyce Rizzi*  
Joyce Rizzi

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April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission  
Library

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Tricia Potts, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Tricia Potts

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April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Kim Sheridan, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

*Kim Sheridan*

Kim Sheridan

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Secretary

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Baltimore, MD 21239-1998  
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FAX: 410-323-8816



April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Susan E. Blum, Teacher, Mathematics Dept., Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

*Susan E. Blum*  
Susan E. Blum

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HIGH SCHOOL**

1300 E. Northern Parkway  
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April 28, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Krista Andersen, Teacher, Mercy High School, Baltimore, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

*Krista Andersen*

Krista Andersen

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

**100 N. E. AVE. D  
IDABEL, OKLAHOMA**

(405) 286-6558

April 28, 1997

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MAY 5 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20541

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

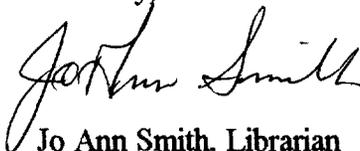
Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the librarian at Idabel Middle School, and I would like to thank you for your help in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access information via the Information Superhighway. Idabel is a small, poor, isolated community, miles away from any major university. We are hoping to be able to access the Internet the coming school year of 1997-98 if the plan that guarantees poor schools a discount for telecommunication services is passed. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. We especially need this to help access information for our science fair and prepare the students for the workforce of tomorrow.

Due to a real financial crises in our school, our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I know from talking to our school treasurer that most schools in Oklahoma are in the same boat. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Smith, Librarian

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MAINE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

May 1, 1997 RECEIVED

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Office of Secretary

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SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEYS

Donald A. Kopp, Esq.  
Chair

The Honorable Rachele B. Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I am President of the Maine School Boards Association, and represent over 1800 school board members in Maine. I want to thank you for your consideration in ensuring that all schools have affordable access to the Internet and are provided with opportunities for distance-learning.

In a rural state like Maine these technological opportunities provide an important link towards educational equity. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest or the most rural schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide for distance-learning opportunities. The approval of this Act will address the needs of all our schools, and more importantly, the plan will ensure direct services to the classrooms where students learn. The inclusion of the internal classroom connections discounts is imperative to provide equitable educational opportunities for students, regardless of where their family resides.

This plan is essential for preparing our students for their future, and I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

*James A. Banks, Sr.*  
James A. Banks, Sr.  
President

CC: Dale A. Douglass, Executive Director  
MSBA Board of Directors

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Member of THE MAINE LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM

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Office of Legal Counsel

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Frank J. Williams, Jr.  
Vice President  
Public Affairs

MAY 5 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC

VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS AND FACSIMILE

May 2, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

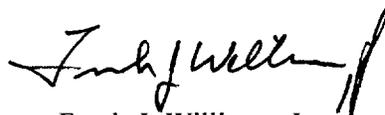
Dear Commissioner Chong:

My name is Frank J. Williams, Jr., and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs and Senior Counsel of The May Department Stores Company ("May"), a retail department store company with 366 stores in 30 states and the District of Columbia and over 111,000 employees. I am writing to express May's concern about the Federal Communications Commissions proposed action to establish a "Fair and Equitable Rate Charge" of \$4.50 per line per month for the first year and \$6.00 per line per month for the second year on business users of multi-line telephones. The impact of this proposed charge on companies such as May would be substantial, particularly when combined with the proposed increase in the subscriber line charge. For smaller retailers, the increase would be even more dramatic.

While May understands that the purpose of the increase in rates is to fund the wiring of schools and libraries for Internet access, we do not understand the rationale of placing such a substantial burden for such programs on businesses. The impact from the new charges on larger and smaller retailers would be in the tens of millions of dollars per year. Such increases in costs by retailers could ultimately mean increased costs to consumers, which would not create any long term benefit to the general public.

We ask that you consider the serious impact the new rates will have, not only on the business community, but on the public as a whole and that you encourage the Federal Communications Commission not to take an action which would have such a substantially negative impact on business and private citizens. If you have any questions concerning May's position on this issue, or if I can provide any additional information, please call me at (314) 342-6461.

Sincerely



Frank J. Williams, Jr.

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