

CC 96-45



SHOREWOOD-TROY LIBRARY

650 Deerwood Drive
Shorewood, IL 60435
815/725-1715

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 15, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Honorable Rachelle B. Chong - Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Commissioner Chong:

We are writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published in November, 1996.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

We in Illinois are fortunate to have strong support for such a discount. On April 10, the Illinois House approved HB 707 (Telecom Bill) with a 115-0 vote, thus making public libraries and library systems eligible for the same discounted telecommunication rates afforded to other educational institutions included in the Public Utilities Act.

We in Shorewood have strong support from the Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce for Internet access. However, the monetary portion of the commitment is dependent upon the success of their annual 4-day festival, which in turn, is dependent upon the weather.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools -- and -- ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary F. Thomas".

Mary F. Thomas,
Director
The Staff and Board of Trustees

MFT:sg

CC96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we 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.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long 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.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to 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.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the 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.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Northridge High
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Patricia Paulings
Rebekah Olli
Rosemary Steele
Kathryn Lewis
Lance Edward
Rason Andersen
Dawn M. Senter
Kenda Greenwood
Sharon Maughan
Sheri Swasey
Nedley M. White
L. B. Blevins
Joseph Aptel
Michael Lewis

Tracy J. Deane
Judith Scott
John C. Paul
Christy Barnard
Jill Snyder
Spencer
Kam Hawwood
Vicki Woot
Sara Thorderson
Aneida DeLeon
Kathleen Ryan
W. R. Hill
Jan Williams
R. W. S. / Janice Bate
Cousie Garrett
Lucy Kepner
Just James
Linda Snow
Shirley Parton
Kim Call
Julie Boren
Wendy Smith
Kathleen Y...

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we 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.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long 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.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to 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.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the 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.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Holt Elementary
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Kathleen Anderson
Julie Duke

Kristen Cawley

Lucy B. Stutch
Dulinda Johnson

Jennifer Votava
Arvello Dent

Saina Jorgensen
Somow Bennett

B. Smeed

Geri Ridley
Carolyn Marston

Guth Thome

Marilyn Hamblin
Louelle Hall

Sandra Hakue

Jesa Summery
Jodie Taylor

Syrmel Fennel

Krystal Mills

Cheryl Bryner
Paula Hedgerwood

Melody Little

Lusan Colledge

Julann Downs

Janne Suetz

C C 96-48

Hill Field Elementary School PART OR LATE FILED

389 South 1000 East • Clearfield, Utah 84015

Judy A. Nixon
Principal

Telephone (435) 774-7408
Fax 774-1714
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 2, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we 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.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long 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.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to 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.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the 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.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Hill Field Elementary
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Dianne Call
Susan Hood
Karen Strickland
Chae Luckie
Carol Sandahl Ju
Patricia Knorr
Kristy Zumbo
Bonnie Ker
Michelle Wandy
W. Marsie
Stefanie Walker
Winnie Kilpack
Amy Furman

Kathleen Wiley
Evelyn Rippl
Jacklyn O'Probit
E. Janner
Kathy Sutherland
Stacy Callison
Joy Paulsen
Kris Mitchell
Joy Paulsen
Alice Cipolini
Janice B. Dean
Adell Anderson
Maggie Jones
Judy Monnell
Juni Hedberg
Julie # 714
Sharon Moore
Jennifer Evans
Kathleen Dickstein

C 096-45

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

LIBRARY—COURTS BUILDING • P.O. BOX 942837 • SACRAMENTO, CA 94237-0001



TELEPHONE: (916) 654-0174

PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 11, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Rachelle B. Chung, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chung:

California's libraries are a key access point for many citizens who need information through the electronic superhighway, and I applaud the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which will enable libraries to provide and expand this public service with discounted rates.

My staff and I have reviewed the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. We were pleased with the forward-thinking evidenced in the report, particularly with regard to the range of telecommunications services covered and the initial budget. Probably the budget will need to increase as Americans increasingly obtain their information electronically through public service points, but such an increase is precisely what is necessary to assure their access to government information and to keep our economy viable.

I do have several suggestions for changes, however.

First, libraries should be permitted to recover costs for patron usage — downloading a document, for example — without it being considered a "resale" as prohibited in the Joint Board's report.

I am concerned that discounts based on the National School Lunch Program will prove problematic and inequitable for libraries. It's a fair and fine source of data for schools, but public library jurisdictions do not coincide with school districts — and then there is no applicability whatsoever to a hospital library, a law library, or a university library that serve the public yet do not focus on children. I'd recommend, instead, that U.S. Census data be used across the board for libraries.

Finally, the language of the Act permits for-profit libraries to obtain discounts if they are eligible for federal funds under the State-based plan for the Library Services and Technology Act (formerly Title III of the Library Services and Construction Act). In California, all libraries that share resources with other libraries are eligible for those funds: if a private university like Stanford shares its information or loans its resources to people beyond its normal clientele of faculty and students, we want it able to participate in resource-sharing as fully as possible ... which requires telecommunications. A bill has just been

Rachelle B. Chung

-2-

April 11, 1997

introduced in the State Legislature to support library resource-sharing, and both publicly-funded and privately-funded libraries are included because the ultimate benefit is to the public rather than to the institution.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at (916) 654-0174 if further information would be useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Starr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kevin Starr
State Librarian of California

KO8:BW:ag
BW2196-97fcc-ltr.2



IEEE
UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES

Promoting Career and Technology-Policy Interests of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineers

CE 96-45

April 9, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States Activities (IEEE-USA) recently approved the attached position paper on "*Universal Access*". Even though it is past the deadline for comment on Docket 96-45, we believe our paper will be helpful to you in formulating further policy.

This paper is the result of extensive deliberations and reflects IEEE-USA's experience with communications and health policy.

In particular, the position makes several recommendations directly pertinent to the FCC's deliberations in the Universal Service proceeding calling on the FCC to:

- Identify incentives to promote infrastructure development and encourage broadband network access by underserved populations; and
- Cooperate with local government and private sector entities to assist in aggregating demand for telecommunications networks and service.

The position also recommends that FCC universal access policies be flexible and subject to frequent review.

If you would like any additional information or have any questions, our staff contact in Washington is Deborah Rudolph, Manager of the IEEE-USA Technology Policy Council, at (202) 785-0017.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Benigni
Vice President-Professional Activities
and
Chair, United States Activities Board

DRB/dr:bc



IEEE

UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES BOARD

POSITION STATEMENT

Promoting Career and Technology Policy Interests of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineers

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

The ability for an authorized user to access secure information from anywhere within the United States via high capacity telecommunications network is called "universal access." This access should be available ubiquitously to facilitate multi-media broadband services for optimizing the delivery of public services, such as health care.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States Activities (IEEE-USA) recommends that:

- 1) The Federal Communications Commission and state public service commissions identify incentives or subsidies which will promote infrastructure development and encourage broadband network access by under-served populations and the deployment of high-speed advanced networks to serve low income segments of the population, persons with disabilities, as well as communities where the high cost of network development delivery have discouraged investments;
- 2) The Federal Communications Commission and state public service commissions cooperate with local governmental and private-sector entities to identify applications in health-care, education, library, economic development, corrections and other areas of public concern to enable communities and network providers to aggregate demand for telecommunications networks and services;
- 3) Contributions to universal service support mechanisms be open, explicit and competitively neutral; and all service providers in a particular area should contribute;
- 4) The private and non-profit sectors promote development of educational and training programs that would overcome fears of using new technologies and enhance public understanding of the value of advanced networks in specific applications such as education and health-care; and
- 5) Universal access policies be flexible and subject to frequent review. Technology changes extremely rapidly and regulation has not been able to keep pace.

The *1996 Telecommunications Act* charges the Federal Communications Commission with establishing policies for ensuring universal access in the new competitive environment. IEEE-USA recognizes that the Federal government, in conjunction with state governments, is required to continue to promote and encourage universal access for all the people of the United States, regardless of location, disability or economic status. Interactive telecommunications access points should include schools, facilities of primary care providers, government offices, libraries, post offices, community-based organizations, and, ultimately, homes.

In order to support the development of universal service, we offer the following observations:

- 1) Historically, universal service has meant availability of telephone services at reasonable cost. In the information age, this definition needs modification from the model of voice-grade communication, to include the availability at reasonable cost of both access to multi-media information services as well as networks that transport these information and multi-media services.

The universal service debate must also address the need to ensure that citizens receive the education, training and services they will require in order to have realistic access to these networks and services. A high degree of computer literacy will be required for members of the next generation to be functioning citizens and participants in the economy.

- 2) Different applications may have different technical requirements. For some, two-way voice and text will suffice; for others, two-way video will be necessary.

Medical applications (involving patients, health-care providers and diagnostic consultants) will require high bandwidth two-way communication.

- 3) Enhanced privacy, security and reliability must be part of the infrastructure if the national information highway is to fulfill its potential. These are especially critical and immediate needs in medical services.
- 4) Legal and technical standards are essential. The Federal government needs to enact a comprehensive privacy law to supersede conflicting state laws, so as to ensure that authorized users and consumers can safely send and receive sensitive personal information. In addition, minimal standards for system security should be defined.

This statement was developed by the Medical Technology Policy Committee of IEEE-USA and represents the considered judgment of a group of U.S. IEEE members with expertise in the subject field. IEEE-USA promotes the career and technology policy interests of the nearly 220,000 electrical, electronics and computer engineers who are U.S. members of the IEEE.

BACKGROUND

The recent telecommunications law sets a goal of universal service for advanced telecommunications for all regions but addresses access to these services primarily in terms of making these services available and "affordable" for schools, libraries and health-care centers. While some libraries, schools and health-care centers can serve as appropriate sites for public access, use and training, they are not a substitute for needed widespread access by individuals in their homes. The focus of the law's implementation has now shifted to the Federal Communications Commission and the states. Other areas affecting universal service such as privacy, health-care licensure, and reimbursement for electronic delivery of health-care services, remain still to be dealt with by the Federal government.

- 1) Historically, the term "universal service" has meant the availability, at reasonable cost, of telephone service. The "service" in question has been a voice-grade communications connection between two users. In the information age, this definition is no longer sufficient.

Vital communication occurs between and among users and information and service providers. It encompasses not only voice but data, images and two-way interactive video communications.

The definition of "universal service" must also include the availability, at reasonable cost, of access to new multi-media communications and to information services. To use an analogy, it does little good to transport a person to the doors of a library or health-care center only to have that person find that obtaining the information or service within is prohibitively costly.

Therefore, IEEE-USA suggests that the term "universal service" must include access to both the infrastructure and to on-line information and services. This implies a need for non-proprietary information and publicly oriented services to be available at affordable cost.

- 2) The members of IEEE who are professionals in the information industry are particularly aware of the high degree of computer literacy that will be required for members of the next generation to be functioning citizens and participants in the economy. The universal service debate must consider the availability of the infrastructure required to ensure that our citizens can receive the education and training they need.
- 3) IEEE-USA observes that technology changes extremely rapidly and that frequently regulation is not able to keep pace.

From a technology standpoint, the current rate of change is unprecedented. IEEE-USA is aware that the rate of change will continue to accelerate in the foreseeable future. Only broad policies and frequent review will prevent policies from becoming obsolete.

- 4) The critical applications for universal access include but are not limited to health-care, education, E-mail, telecommuting, information and economic development.

In this final section we discuss the promises and challenges of the new information technologies in the health-care arena.

Health-care Implications

Recent shifts in our health-care system from acute care to preventive and chronic care management, the emerging managed care and capitation health delivery systems, the growth in self-care and mutual-aid groups, and the increasing emphasis on the importance of preventive care require that Americans take more responsibility for their own health.

Universal access to more comprehensive health information, to effective preventive care, and to health-care professionals and resources is needed to deal with these trends. Curtailed hospital stays and the increasing percentage of the population living with chronic illness or disability require patients and their caregivers to be able to access health-care professionals and services in order to manage their care at home.

Consumer health informatics (CHI) initiatives now empower consumers (patients, caregivers, etc.) to access health-care information and tap electronic mutual support groups. Preliminary studies suggest that CHI programs can help cut health-care costs, extend services, and improve quality of life.

Telemedicine technology also makes it possible for homebound patients to receive much of their needed care electronically in their homes with consequent savings on office visits and transportation. The development of interactive computer programs and access to two-way multimedia telecommunications services can economically reduce costly face-to-face health consultations. Electronic telecommunications can enable both consumers and providers to access a broad spectrum of information resources that guide improved decision-making.

Population-based health needs are also advanced by universal access to networked information. In a July 1995 report of the U.S. Public Health Service titled, "Making a Powerful Connection: The Health of the Public and the National Information Infrastructure," the Public Health Data Policy Coordinating Committee argued that networked information could serve the health of the public through rapid communication regarding disease or environmental risk; assessment of community health problems and needs; provision of distance education regarding prevention to residents and public health workers; identification of community health resources to residents; and data collection for public health assessment and planning.

Similarly, research has confirmed the critical impact of the health of communities on individual health status making electronic access to community health information networks an essential component of our national health-care system.

Digital technologies that can enable a wide range of treatment modalities traditionally carried out in the hospitals or nursing homes can now be performed at home. Physicians can use stethoscopes, endoscopes, electrocardiography, radiographic and sonographic equipment, and the network can carry high quality diagnostic information electronically from patients to remote physicians.

The telecommunications technologies provide consumers with new informational tools to locate and identify information tailored to their particular health status. Telecommunications also increases the sources of information that consumers can turn to and share information with each other. The new technologies have the potential to provide consumers with access to multimedia information and communications in much more powerful, timely and effective formats. Education, training and

specific instructions for rehabilitative therapy or on the use of equipment in the home can be provided visually to patients and caregivers. Support groups can be facilitated through access to video communications, which can also enhance their effectiveness.

Delivery of interactive health-care information in multimedia formats greatly enhances the effectiveness and likelihood of use by individuals. Use of these systems has reduced patient trips to emergency rooms as well as office visits and telephone calls to physicians. For many consultative and rehabilitation cases, a two-way, on-line video consultation may be either the only acceptable treatment mode or may substantially enhance the effectiveness of the treatment.

There are barriers to exploiting technological advancements for the electronic delivery of health-care. Lack of universal access to advanced multimedia telecommunications systems resources and networks represents a significant barrier to maximizing the personal self-care and well-being of all residents. The current uneven fragmented deployment of advanced telecommunications networks capable of delivering these health-care resources and services to every household throughout the United States constitutes the most formidable barrier to universal access to electronically delivered health-care services.

Populations, such as the poor, the severely disabled, and the chronically ill and their caregivers stand to gain much from such access, which would provide health-care information, on-line advice from professionals, as well as diagnostic, consultative and mutual aid support. Low levels of computer ownership by low-income population segments point up the current imbalance of telecommunications resources although future development of more user friendly, less complex access devices may ease this imbalance to some extent. In addition, technological advances, such as home care telemedicine, could be more easily implemented through universal home access to enlarge essential access by individuals in their homes for preventive and consultative health-care services.

Most health information technology was designed for the medical professional and is not effectively available to the lay consumer. Moreover, consumers today require a much greater scope and range of community, social and wellness information to manage their health-care needs beyond that found in medical clinical records or in professional medical databases.

Communities have similar needs for a wide range of data capable of being aggregated and compared across communities in order to assess their health status.

Consumers must have access to professional medical information databases and medical assessment tools in formats adopted to their needs and concerns.

These barriers have served to limit universal access to comprehensive health-care information, restricting the consumer's ability to make decisions and practice self-care and to take the preventive steps on an individual and community basis that may be required.

A widespread assumption posits that health-care equals paid professional services. Rich, largely untapped health-care resources include the volunteer-run on-line support networks and information services, which share both scientific and practical experiential knowledge, as well as sophisticated interactive information and software to motivate and help modify personal lifestyle behaviors. These grassroots lay health information networks and software tools should be identified and supported, since they provide practical, culturally sensitive, and competent health support and communications.

Another significant barrier to the widespread development and use of health information databases is the fear that the privacy of individuals will not be protected and that the confidentiality of personally identifiable information about the health of individuals will be compromised.

Universal service would also serve to breach the widening gap between the "information poor" and the "information wealthy." With shortened hospital stays, and closing of many hospitals, disadvantaged citizens have access to fewer health-care resources. Universal access to monitoring and consultation services electronically, as well as to on-line health-care databases and decision-support services, promises to provide practical health information and more effective access to disadvantaged populations who are often at highest risk for health problems.

Affordability is a major barrier to universal access, often affecting the disadvantaged, those with disabilities, and the homebound most acutely. Universal life line and other services will be required to extend access to those who cannot pay full rates.

A final obstacle to universal access is the need for training of both users and providers in the use of the new technologies. Community centers, social service agencies and public libraries can provide needed orientation and public access to on-line health information systems for those who cannot afford them. Health-care providers can also receive continuing education training in their homes.

bcc list:

**Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission**

**Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission**

**Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission**

**Ronald P. Hack
Director, Office of Systems & Telecommunications Management
Dept. Of Commerce**

**Keith Sinner
Director, Information Technology
Office of Information Resources Management
National Technical Information Service**

**Bernadette McGuire-Rivera
Associate Administrator, Office of Telecommunications & Information Applications
National Telecommunications & Information Administration**

**William F. Utlaut
Associate Administrator and Director
Institute for Telecommunication Sciences**

**Thomas Joyce
Director, Office of Telecommunications & Information Management
Department of Health & Human Services**

**James V. Scanlon
Director, Data Policy Division
Office of Program Systems
Department of Health & Human Services**

**Joan L. Turek
Director, Modeling, Computer and Technological Systems Division
Department of Health & Human Services**

**Samuel Robbins
Director, Computer and Network Services Division
Office of Information Services
Dept. Of Health and Human Services**

**R. Anne Thomas
Associate Director, Office of Communications
National Institutes of Health**

Fernando Burbano
Director, Information Systems and Office of Computer and Communications Systems
National Library of Medicine

Stacy Springer
Head Officer, Communications Section
National Science Foundation

Lawrence S. Goldberg
Director, Electrical & Communications Systems Division
National Science Foundation

Deborah Crawford
Program Director, Communications & Computational Systems Program
National Science Foundation

Charles Mullen
Director, Office of Communications Technology
Social Security Administration

Thomas J. O'Hare
Associate Commissioner, Office of Telecommunications & Systems Operations
Social Security Administration

Marc Rotenberg
Chief, Washington Office
ACM The First Society in Computing
U.S. Public Policy Office

Casimir S. Skrzypczak
President, NYNEX Science & Technology, Inc. and
Chairman, Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions

Glenn E. Giles
Chairman, Telecommunications Industry Forum
c/oBellcore

Sally M. Freeman
Director, Public Relations
Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions

Peter Fitzgerald
Director, Research & Information Services
American Health Care Association

Kathleen Frawley
Director, Washington Office
American Health Information Management Association

Edward J. Black
President and Chief Executive Officer
Washington Representation
Computer & Communications Industry Association

Richard Schanen
Chairman, Telecommunications Task Force
Computer & Communications Industry Association

Michael M. Roberts
Vice President, Networking
Washington Representation
EDUCOM

G. Gregory Raab
Washington Representation
Health Industry Manufacturers Association

Paul L. Wexler
General Manager, Telecommunications Systems
Multi-Media Telecommunications Association

Thomas K. Crowe
General Counsel, Washington Representation
Society of Telecommunications Consultants

Susan Bober
Public Relations, Marketing & Communications
TCA The Information Technology &
Telecommunications Association

Grant Seiffert
Director, Government Relations
Washington Representation
Telecommunications Industry Association

Eric J. Schimmel
Vice President, Telecommunications Industry Association

James L. Martin
Director, Office of State-Federal Affairs
National Governors' Association

Alicia C. Aebersold
Manager, Publication Services
National Governors' Association

Carl Tubbesing
Director, Federal Relations, Washington Representation
National Conference of State Legislatures

Sally L. Albright
Deputy Director, Congressional & Public Relations
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

John J. Gawronski
Assistant Director, Congressional & Public Relations
NARUC

CC 9

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

April 2, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounted telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and long learner can have access to the world of information technology. Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--and development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can receive services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will ensure our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they will need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technologies into the 21st century.

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

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the 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.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Boulton
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Cindy Read-Smith
Kelly L. Sanders
Celeste C. Watkins
Wendy Rice
Mary Ann Garner
Michelle Hagloch
Cathy Anderson
Beverly Grant
Nelda Lehning
Lee Ann Bryson
Claine Hawkins
Cindy Khamedovost
Katie - Clinton - Smith

Marion Bonner
Paula P. Winter
Bob Chamberlain
Phyllis Miller
Camille Lozy
Kamille Nelson
A. Wstenka
Coyle Eden
Lakee Mitchell



Antelope Elementary School

1810 South Main St.
Clearfield, Utah 84015
Telephone: 801-774-7484

CC 96-45
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL G. Quist
Principal
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we 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.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long 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.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to 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.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the 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.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Antelope Elem.
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Dorothy Moore
Jenni Howard
Pat Larson
Lonnita Walker
Valerie Patton
Lynda Staggard
Sharma Miller
Karen Smehne
Vicki Mortensen
Kathy Thorne
Hinda Grayson
Lisa Richards
Lucinda MacQueen
Mary Ann Humphrey
Jill Fleming

Judy Henderson
Iris Davis
Monica Armitage
Robin Butler
Julie Hammer
Dupe Shagan
Jonna Sherman
Wendy Armstrong
Norma Gardner
Debbie Smith
Judy Huppelk
Bernaine Ricci
John Cook
Susan Sparks