

BURTON PETERS, PRESIDENT
KERRI KLJEWER, VICE PRESIDENT
RONALD REGIER, SEC.-TREAS.

GLEN OTT
AUDRUN SIEBERT
HOMER PETERS

Henderson Community School

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

BLAINE FRIESEN
Secondary Principal

DR. NORMAN E. YODER
Superintendent

RONALD PAULS
Elementary Principal

Box 626 • HENDERSON, NEBR. 68371 • (402) 723-4434 • FAX (402) 723-4431 • e-mail: nyoder@esu6.esu6.k12.ne.us

April 14, 1997

MAY 6 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD

APR 17 10 15 AM '97
JAMES H. QUELLO
REC'D

Dear Commissioner Quello:

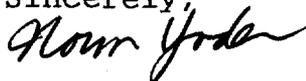
I am a superintendent from Henderson Community School, Henderson, Nebraska, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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.

These discounts will assist us in being able to continue offering internet services and distance learning classroom, although we are experiencing major reduction in funding because of current legislation.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Norm Yoder
Superintendent

NY:dk

Mission Statement: All individuals will learn in a positive environment that assures the creative development and mastery of the decision-making skills necessary for personal growth and cooperative participation in an ever-changing world.

"Equal Opportunity Employer"

San Bernardino City Unified School District

E. Neal Roberts, Ed.D., Superintendent

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
Your Public Schools...
There's No Better Place To Learn



April 11, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

JAMES A. QUAY

APR 17 10 19 AM '97

RECEIVED

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am the Superintendent of the San Bernardino City Unified School District, located in Southern California. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our District is the 10th largest in California and is characterized as a large urban district with over 70% of our students participating in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program. Almost 25% of our students are English Language Learners. As you can see from this brief sketch of the District, our students must have needed exposure to a world of information beyond their city. The Telecommunications 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 importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to our District.

This plan would provide our District the needed funding opportunity to put in place an infrastructure (classroom and school wiring) to allow for connectivity to the Internet and additional distance-learning opportunities.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you for your support to the resources of our future.

Sincerely,

E. NEAL ROBERTS
Superintendent



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

777 N. F Street • San Bernardino, CA 92410 • (909) 381-1240



EX COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 6 1997

DETROIT BOARD OF EDUCATION

5057 WOODWARD AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

HONORABLE IRMA CLARK
President
Member, Voting District 3

(313) 494-1270
Fax (313) 494-1378

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 5, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello,

As president of the Detroit Board of Education, I want to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications 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 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.

The Detroit Public Schools is involved in a 15-year capital improvement project that will transform our 263 schools into institutions designed for 21st Century learning. If we are to successfully create that environment, we will need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Irma Clark, President
Detroit Board of Education

JAMES L. QUAY
APR 17 10 20 AM '97
RECEIVED



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 6 1997

HOLTON-ARMS SCHOOL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 15, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

JAMES H. QUAY

APR 17 10 23 AM '97

RECEIVED

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am Diana Coulton Beebe, Head of The Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications 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 connects for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

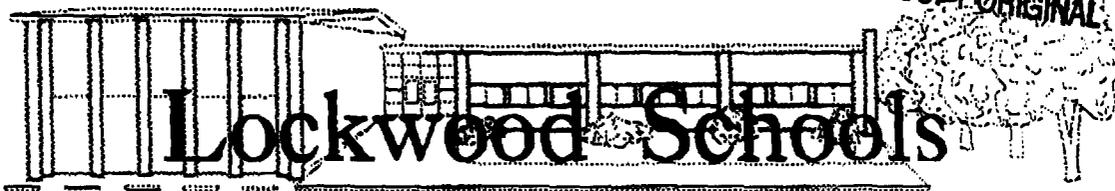
Students at Holton-Arms are set to use the Internet in classrooms, labs and our school libraries. They need discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries all over this country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diana Coulton Beebe
Head of School

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



School District #26 - Yellowstone County 1932 U.S. Hwy. 87 Route 2 Billings, MT 59101

DANIEL N. HAUGEN
Superintendent
406-252-6022

CAM CRONK
Junior High Principal
406-259-0164

DAVE DeBOER
Intermediate Principal
406-248-3239

MICHAEL BOWMAN
Primary School Principal
406-262-2776

SYLVIA SHELHAMER
Business Mgr. - Clerk
FAX #406-259-2502

MAY 6 1997

April 15, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

As superintendent of Lockwood School District #26 in Billings, Montana I want to first thank you for the diligent effort you have been making toward providing equal access to telecommunications and Internet access in all public schools.

I encourage you to continue to support the proposed 2.25 billion dollar E-rate" Telecommunications Discount Program.

Sincerely,

Dan Haugen, Superintendent
Lockwood Schools

**Oakland Schools**

2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan 48328-2735 • Phone (810) 858-2121 • FAX (810) 858-1881

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 14, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 1997

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

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am the superintendent of Oakland Schools, a regional education service agency which serves 28 public school districts and 186,759 students in Oakland County, Michigan. One of the major issues among school superintendents, school boards and other educators in Oakland County and throughout Michigan is that of affordable access to our nation's information infrastructure.

In Oakland County we would continue our work as a regional consortium to bring information access to approximately 10,000 classrooms. To accomplish our goal, we need reduced rates for dialtone and high speed data lines but more importantly, we need affordable means of on-premise equipment and networking for all of our school buildings.

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.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Redmond, Ph.D.
Superintendent

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 4, 1997

APR 16 9 48 AM '97

Dianne Harmon
613 Ca-Crest
Shorewood, IL 60431

JAMES QUELLO

Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20544

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 1997

Dear Commissioner Quello:

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

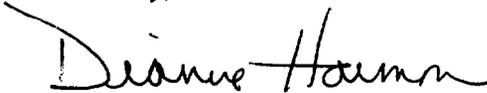
I am writing to express strong support for telecommunications discounts for libraries and schools. It is important that the Federal Communications Commission provide for significant discounts to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are going to be so critical in all our lives.

I work at the Joliet Public Library which is next to the community in which I live. Everyday I see young people as well as adults who desperately need as much help as the library can give to help them learn and grow. Family literacy programs are well attended and many adults are working to learn to use the basic computers we've managed to provide for them. As Welfare reform begins to have impact, more and more people will need to turn to public libraries for information to help them cope in their daily lives. English as a Second Language classes help recent immigrants learn to adjust to their new society -- Public Libraries have been involved with this effort for many, many years.

All of the above efforts will be strongly impacted by telecommunications. Significant discounts for the telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services are 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.

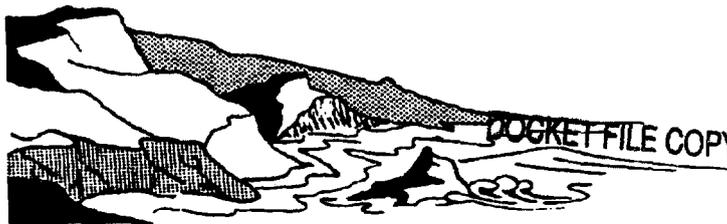
Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools.

Sincerely,



Dianne Harmon

96-45



Lucia Mar Unified School District
602 ORCHARD ST., ARROYO GRANDE, CA 93420
(805) 473-4300 FAX (805) 481-1398

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ARROYO GRANDE

NIPOMO

GROVER BEACH

OCEANO

PISMO BEACH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 21, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RECEIVED
APR 24 2 27 PM '97

RR: CC Docket No. 96-45

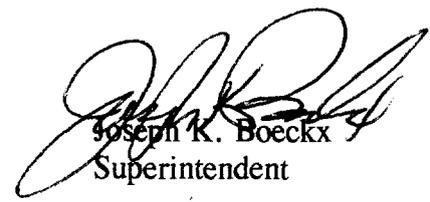
Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to vote positively for the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program, which is coming before the FCC for a decision in early May.

The obvious, increased need for better technology in our school systems, especially in terms of basic access to the Internet, is straining local school budgets. We are continually struggling to find the means to adequately support the onslaught of electronic communications. The "E-Rate" program could be a partial solution. It would positively impact thousands of our students in an area where training is now of paramount importance, if graduates are to compete in an increasingly complex world.

This seems to me a most sensible expenditure of federal funds from a government that has specifically called for increased communications literacy in the classroom. Please do all you can to see that this program is implemented.

Sincerely,



Joseph K. Boeckx
Superintendent

JKB:sk



HEART OF GEORGIA
REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

P.O. BOX 368 · 101 HARRELL AVENUE · EASTMAN, GA 31023 · (912) 374-2240 · FAX: (912) 374-1524

JUNE D. BRADFELD, Ed.S., Executive Director

April 24, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45
Letter of Support

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Quello:

It is my understanding that you are now working to implement the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to the boys and girls of Georgia. I am an educational consultant working with children and adults from ten school systems in the Heart of GA RESA area. They include the counties of Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler and Wilcox and the city system of Dublin.

As you can see, our systems are rural and lacking many of the amenities of large systems such as those found in the metropolitan areas of our state. Most of our students come from families whose parent(s) have little education and who are well below the poverty level. These children have little opportunity for success except for those opportunities which are provided by their schools.

The Telecommunications Act will guarantee that the schools in our area will receive much-needed telecommunications discounts that will enable them to have access to distance-learning opportunities and Internet capabilities. This will ensure that our students will have opportunity for success.

I ask that you consider the futures of the children in our area and support the Telecommunications Act. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Donna Wynn

Walla Walla Public Schools SKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 96-45

364 South Park Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-3293
(509) 527-3000 - FAX (509) 529-7713

Dr. Ellen L. Wolf, Superintendent

April 24, 1997

MAY 6 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington DC 20554
By Fax 202-418-2802

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Re: Proposed \$2.25 Billion "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount

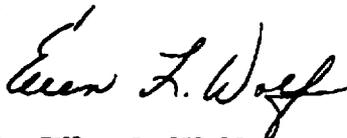
Honorable Commissioner Quello:

Please support the Joint Board's plan for a \$2.25 billion telecommunications discount to public schools. 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, most 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.

The Walla Walla School District will be spending approximately \$50,000 per year in data communications to provide wide area networking and Internet access services for students. With the "E-Rate" Telecommunications discount in effect, our cost would be cut by approximately 50%. The discount would not only guarantee equal access for our 12 sites, it would ensure access to worldwide information and greatly assist information exchange within our district. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway and for all your efforts on behalf of public education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ellen L. Wolf
Superintendent of Schools

GENERAL SMALLWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL
4990 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, Maryland 20640
301-753-1786

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 23, 1997

MAY 6 1997

Commissioner James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

WE are faculty and staff from General Smallwood Middle School in 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 our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

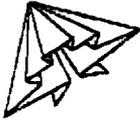
Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Just a favor

L. Smith
J. Stone
A. K. Wood
J. Coleman
A. R. Stover
B. S. Gallup
A. R. Griffin
S. A. Kellum
M. A. Arwalo
J. H. Hines
J. C. Breech
Julia S. Habau
R. W. Math
A. R. Stover
C. Wilson
A. J. J. J.
J. Hines
R. Howe



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

HEART OF GEORGIA YSTC
101 HARRELL AVENUE
EASTMAN, GA 31023
(912) 374-2240 FAX (912) 374-1524

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am the coordinator of the Heart of Georgia Youth Science & Technology Center in Eastman, Georgia and I would like to thank you for your support of technology information and the importance of the internet.

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. This plan is very important and vital to the rural areas of Georgia as we seek to compete with much larger school communities. Our children deserve the same and equal opportunities as those of more influential systems.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ron Bryant

GEORGIA YOUTH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

June Lewis

Route 2 Box 45
McRae, Georgia 31055
Phone 912-374-2240
Fax 912-374-1524
Home Phone 912-868-5259
Email jlewis2@mail.dodge.public.lib.ga.us

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 24, 1997

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

MAY 6 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

As a consultant for a regional educational service agency serving ten school systems in the southern part of Georgia, I am very interested in the actions that you take concerning the implementation of the Telecommunications Act. I would like to thank you for your efforts to assure that all school districts and educational consortia have affordable access to the technology needed for our children and other citizens to have the opportunities to promote world class learning. The area I serve can have the educational playing field not only leveled but enriched by your decision to ensure that access is affordable in poor districts that are geographically isolated from large libraries, museums, and other educational tools often taken for granted in many urban areas. For example, today I was in an eighth grade classroom where the teacher had gone to a public library to access the Internet to get information on Hale Bopp to use with her class' study of astronomy. There was no local access for her or her students in the school or at her home. It was only through her extra dedication to her students that the information was available for her class. These students should have the same opportunities as students elsewhere in the United States.

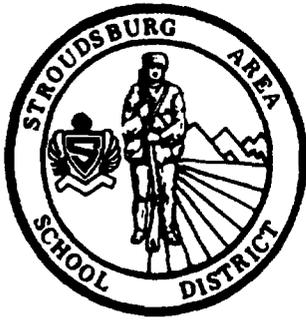
I urge you to provide every school system in the country with discounts for all telecommunication services based upon the criteria of poverty (free or reduced lunch indicators) and isolation (rural). E-rate discounts should be available for inside connections to classrooms, networking of schools and education offices and libraries with each other, and Internet access including installation and maintenance costs. Funding should be administered by an independent fund administrator, not state education departments. Applications should be sent to all school systems and public libraries and should take into consideration that the smaller, poorer school systems do not have "professional" grant writers on staff and that many do not employ a full staff during the summer months. Therefore, applications should take a minimum of effort to complete, and sufficient notice should be given for their completion. Local flexibility for self determination of services needed for the individual school's educational mission should be allowed.

I urge you to support the discount plan for universal services to schools so that all our American students can be more adequately prepared.

Sincerely,



June Lewis



STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

123 Linden Street
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18360
Telephone 717-421-1990 FAX 717-424-5986

SUNSHINE PERIOD DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 18, 1997

Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello,

I am a Director of Technology from the Stroudsburg Area School District and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have a affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications 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 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.

One of the goals of our long range technology plan is to provide students with access to the global community. Discounts provided by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will lessen the financial burden on school districts in providing this most important communications medium.

On behalf of the Stroudsburg Area School District, I wish to thank you for your continued support in this endeavor.

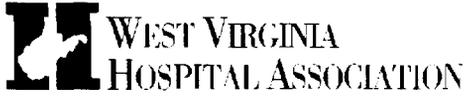
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard W. Clark".

Richard W. Clark
Director of Technology

cc: Patricia Tancredi

REC-117
MAY 6 1997
APR 24 2 28 PM '97
RECEIVED



SUNSHINE PERIOD

100 Association Drive
Charleston, WV 25311-1571
(304) 344-9744
FAX: (304) 344-9745

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 6, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
MAY 6 2 57 PM '97

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Suite 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness,

On behalf of the members of the West Virginia Hospital Association I am writing to urge your support tomorrow for the universal service policy as part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

West Virginia is a very rural state and much of our population remains isolated from services and technology increasingly available to more urban populations. We have made tremendous strides in the past few years in both education and health care by use of telecommunications. Our telemedicine programs bring health care resources to both professionals and consumers, and has permitted many of our citizens to remain in their communities rather than traveling long distances to access these services.

Through the ongoing effort of West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller, who was a primary sponsor of this legislation, health care providers look forward to continuing our progress in the area of "telehealth". We believe that the goal of improving the quality and decreasing the cost of health care in rural areas, can only be achieved if telecommunications costs for these applications is comparable to those in urban areas.

I urge you to support elimination of distance charges for rural health care providers, and toll-free connection to the Internet.

Sincerely,

Patricia McGill
Vice President Legislative Policy

cc: WVHA Members
AHA
Senator Jay Rockefeller



100 Association Drive
Charleston, WV 25311-1571
(304) 344-9744
FAX: (304) 344-9745

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

May 6, 1997

Commissioner Jim Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Suite 814
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Quello,

On behalf of the members of the West Virginia Hospital Association I am writing to urge your support tomorrow for the universal service policy as part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

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I urge you to support elimination of distance charges for rural health care providers, and toll-free connection to the Internet.

Sincerely,

Patricia McGill
Vice President Legislative Policy

cc: WVHA Members
AHA
Senator Jay Rockefeller

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
MAY 2 1997

96-45

May 1, 1997

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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,

Julie H. Harrison

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUBJECTS

96-45

May 1, 1997

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MAY 6 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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 in formed 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,

Beth Bland

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COMMISSIONER
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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 28, 1997

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Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Ness:

I am a parent of two children in our local public school system. I am also a post-secondary education teacher and a school board member in Beaufort County. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in helping our schools to gain access to the world of information via telecommunication.

Through the Telecommunication Act and the Joint State Board discount plan, there will be greater opportunities for our district to enable our children to receive educational information through distance learning. This will also allow more instruction to take place without regard to class size.

Please continue to fully support the Joint Board discount plan for our children because they will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Ronald Speaks

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Independent Insurance Agents of America

INCORPORATED



96-45

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April 30, 1997

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CAPITOL HILL OFFICE
SUITE 300
412 FIRST STREET, S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
202/863-7000
FAX 202/863-7015
JAMES
3 10 PM '97

The Honorable James H. Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Quello,

On behalf of the 280,000 insurance agents and independent agencies represented by the Independent Insurance Agents of America (IIAA), I am writing to express our interest in the upcoming decision on proposed reductions in access charges and changes to universal service. There is a concern among the IIAA membership that many of the changes you are contemplating will increase fees on small businesses.

Every single insurance agent relies on quality phone service to conduct their business, whether it is taking a claim after an automobile accident or helping a customer during the floods in North Dakota. Telecommunications is a significant cost of the IIAA membership and an essential part of their business development. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to reduce these costs.

One simple way to decrease the cost of telecommunications is to reduce access charges consumers pay to originate and terminate long distance calls. However, any efforts to cut access charges while increasing fees on phones for small business is bad policy and an unfair burden on small business. Access charges should be cut.

Many of the proposals being considered by the FCC penalize small business by insuring that they will face higher rates. Small business should not be singled out to bear the burden of telecommunications deregulation. The FCC should follow the intent of Congress and the understanding of the American people when the Telecommunications Act was passed: Lower rates and increased competition.

IIAA encourages you to reject any proposal that would unfairly target small business for increased fees. I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Equale
Senior Vice President
of Government Affairs

PAE/kb



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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

330 South 16th Place • Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-1495 • 414-743-5566

MEMO

To: Commissioner Jim Quello
From: Gerald M. Worrick, Administrator
Subject: Universal Service Policy
Date: May 6, 1997

As I understand, on Wednesday, May 7 you will be voting on the Universal Service Policy, which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The universal service provisions will direct telecommunication rate subsidies to rural health care providers.

I strongly encourage the Commissioners to vote in favor of this provision. As a rural hospital administrator, it is very important that the physicians, nurses, and patients we serve have the same access to high-technology services as those living in the urban settings. It is through the technological developments in telecommunications that the whole concept of telemedicine will be available. This can only occur with our ability to access the large medical centers in the urban settings, which can only be achieved through low rates of access. The Universal Service Policy will provide and guarantee that ability to rural health care institutions, along with schools and libraries.

At this time we can only imagine the impact of telemedicine and the services it will be able to provide to us. This can only be achieved with low rates which will allow us to begin developing those types of systems.

Therefore, I again strongly encourage you to vote in favor of these sections of the Telecommunications Act.

GMW/kab

96-45



Breckinridge Memorial

1011 Old Highway 60
Hardinsburg, KY 40143-9732
Phone: (502) 756-2124
Fax: (502) 756-6042

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secularity

DATE OF: May 6, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MEMO TO: Commissioner Jim Quello
Federal Communications Commission
Contact: Ginger Clark

SUBJECT: Upcoming vote on Telecommunications Regulations
affecting Telemedicine

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is preparing to vote Wednesday, May 7, on a telecommunications policy that will have significant impact on Rural Health providers. The Wednesday vote will be on "Universal Service" policy, part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Universal Service regulations will allow rural providers to receive the same rates for telecommunications lines used in telemedicine that urban providers receive. With the current and anticipated growth in this segment of the health care business, this can be a significant cost saving for the provider and ultimately the consumer. Also, universal service will allow eligible rural providers to connect to the Internet without paying long distance charges in the event a local Internet Service provider is not available.

I wish to convey our organizations strong support for and request your vote in favor of Universal Service regulations.

George E. Walz, CHE
Chief Executive Officer

GEW/jdm

96-45



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ORIGINAL

May 5, 1997

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

TO: FCC Commissioner Jim Quello
 FCC Commissioner Rachele Chong
 FCC Commissioner Susan Ness

FROM: William A. Bell
 Sr. Vice President/General Counsel, Florida Hospital Association

SUBJ: May 7 Vote on Telecommunications Universal Service Policy

The Florida Hospital Association, on behalf of its twenty-seven rural hospital members, urges your support of two issues which the FCC will vote on May 7 as part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Universal Service Policy should cover distance charges. Rural health care providers should have access to telecommunications services at about the same overall cost as that faced by urban health care providers. Often rural providers pay much more because of the great distances involved between them and urban connection sites. Distance charges are largely responsible for the considerable differences in telecommunications costs for rural and urban providers. The FCC should either subsidize distance charges or eliminate them in order for benefits of the Telecommunications Act for rural health care providers to be meaningful.

The Universal Service Policy should also support toll-free connections to the Internet. The Internet is a valuable tool for the provision of many rural health care providers, particularly in the area of public health. However, people in rural areas often must pay toll charges to reach the Internet Service Provider, while providers in urban areas do not. The FCC should support helping rural health care providers pay toll charges if they cannot connect to the Internet via a local call.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

WAB:lb