



# BIG BEAVER FALLS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SECRET  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

GREGORY M. POLCHA  
Coordinator of Data Processing

MAY 12 2 44 PM '97

Administrative Center  
820 16th Street  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
PH. (412)843-3420  
FAX (412)843-2360

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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the Coordinator of Data Processing for the Big Beaver Falls Area School District, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania and I thank you for your efforts and dedication to ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will provide schools with the best opportunity to maximize their shrinking budgets while actively pursuing the requirements set forth by President Clinton to have all schools across the nation connected to one another via the Information Superhighway. Since funding sources are becoming smaller and grant opportunities remain competitive and difficult to earn, these initiatives through your efforts will allow school districts and libraries to respond to this directive without adversely impacting their ability to respond to the other needs of their students and communities.

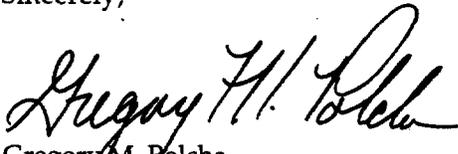
The wealth of information and resources available through the Internet provides students, teachers, and administrators valuable tools but the cost of building the infrastructure to access this information is overwhelming. It is rare that after acquiring the computers and related technology that the necessary reserves are available to establish connections to the Internet. The savings through the discounts promised in your initiatives will permit school districts and libraries to provide greater, fairer, and more equitable access to the Internet. We are currently using district funds and state technology initiative funds to build Local Area Networks within our central campus buildings but the costs to link our remote buildings to this central network force us to delay connecting all of the buildings together. Anything that you do to reduce these telecommunications costs will greatly assist in building the infrastructure and connecting everyone together to access the resources that are available on-line.

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SUSAN NEERS  
MAY 12 2 44 PM '97

I urge you to consider the needs of our nation and communities to help us provide the necessary and upgraded skills to our youth to ensure that America thrives in the Twenty-first Century rather than just survives it.

Sincerely,



Gregory M. Dolcha  
Coordinator of Data Processing

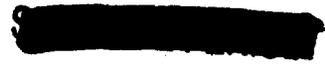
c: Dr. J. Higgins, Superintendent  
Ms. J. Smith, Business Manager  
Mr. Richard Santorum, U.S. Senate  
Mr. Arlen Specter, U.S. Senate  
Mr. Ronald Klink, U.S. Congress  
Mr. Michael Veon, Pennsylvania Representative  
Mr. Nicholas Colafella, Pennsylvania Representative  
Ms. Susan Laughlin, Pennsylvania Representative



IUKA HOSPITAL

CC 96-45  
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May 13, 1997



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
Fax: 202-418-2821

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote this week to adopt regulations governing "universal service" policies as part of the implementation of the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

The universal service policies of the Act mandate that the FCC direct telecommunication rate subsidies to schools, libraries and rural health providers. In the case of health care, the FCC must make telecommunication rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in urban areas.

The goal of this provision is to lessen the difference between the quality of health care services available in urban areas and those in rural areas, many of which suffer from a lack of health care resources and access to medical professionals, as well as the burden of being at greater distances from advanced medical technology and treatment facilities.

We feel that "telehealth" has the potential to help our member hospitals and health systems improve the quality and lessen the cost of health care delivery in rural areas. That's why we hope you will help keep the telecommunications costs for our facilities as low as possible by adopting the following policy positions related to universal service provisions:

- Universal service should support distance charges.
- Universal service should support toll-free connections to the Internet.

Thank you for your immediate consideration and support on this issue. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Northern  
Administrator

P.O. Box 860  
1777 Curtis Drive  
Iuka, Mississippi 38852  
(601) 423-6051

Affiliated with North Mississippi Medical Center

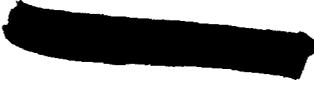
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**Ephraim McDowell**  
**REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

217 South Third Street  
Danville, KY 40422  
(606) 239-1000  
Fax 239-6709

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May 9, 1997

CC 96-45

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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner Quello:

We wish to add our voice in strong support for universal service regulations that will allow rural providers to receive the same rates for telecommunications lines used in telemedicine that urban providers receive. Currently, if our hospital wants to link with another hospital miles away, the cost would be \$14 per mile per month just for a line for the connection. Universal service regulations will decrease that cost.

Also, we strongly support the universal service regulation that will allow eligible rural providers to connect to the Internet without paying long distance charges if a local Internet service provider is not available.

Any time votes occur that involve telecommunications, please remember the impact that those policies will have on rural health providers in addition to urban providers.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Smith  
President & CEO

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# SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



**SUPERINTENDENT and HUMAN RESOURCES**

Bruce Auld  
(760) 375-3983  
(760) 375-4852  
FAX 375-3338

**INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

Perry Hayes  
(760) 375-3923  
FAX 375-1959

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

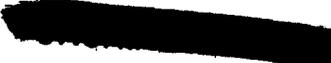
Michael H. McGrath  
(760) 375-4340  
FAX 375-4562

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Howard N. Smith  
(760) 375-3923  
FAX 375-1959

District Office: 113 Felspar Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-3589

April 17, 1997



CC 96-45

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 20 1997

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
MAY 19 9 31 AM '97

Dear Commissioner Ness **EX PARTE OR LATE FILED** Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Sierra Sands 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 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,

*Bill Farris*

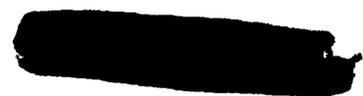
Bill Farris  
Board of Education

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CC 96-48



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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

May 6, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness  
ATTN: Janice Wise  
Fax: 202-418-2821

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Clark Regional Medical Center solicits your support for the adoption of a telecommunications policy to be voted on by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which will have significant impact on rural health providers. The adoption of the Universal Service policy would:

- 1) support and subsidize distance charges, and
- 2) support toll-free connections to the Internet

Adopting universal service regulations will allow rural providers to receive the same rates for telecommunications lines used in telemedicine that urban providers receive. It would also allow connection to the Internet without having to pay long distance charges where a local Internet service provider is unavailable.

Please consider this information in your decision. Thank you.

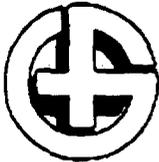
Sincerely,

*Bob Fraraccio*

Robert D. Fraraccio  
CEO

RDF:to

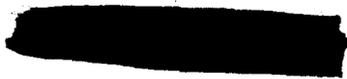
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**FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL**

POST OFFICE BOX 16389  
HATTIESBURG, MS 39404-6389  
601-288-7000

CC 96-45



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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

April 8, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Contact: Janice Wise  
FAX: 202-418-2821

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote this week to adopt regulations governing "universal service" policies as part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The universal service policies of the Act mandate that the FCC direct telecommunication rate subsidies to schools, libraries and rural health providers. In the case of health care, the FCC must make telecommunication rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in urban areas.

The goal of this provision is to lessen the difference between the quality of health care services available in urban areas and those in rural areas, many of which suffer from a lack of health care resources and access to medical professionals, as well as the burden of being at greater distances from advanced medical technology and treatment facilities.

We feel that "telehealth" has the potential to help our member hospitals and health systems improve the quality and lessen the cost of health care delivery in rural areas. That's why we hope to help keep the telecommunications cost for our facilities as low as possible by adopting the following policy positions related to universal service provisions:

- Universal service should support distance charges.
- Universal service should support toll-free connections to the Internet.

Thank you for your immediate consideration and support on this issue. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rod Walker, FHFMA  
Assistant Executive Director

RW/jlh

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0096-45  
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MAY 20 1997 Via Facsimile

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

May 8, 1997



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Universal Service Regulations

Dear Commissioner Ness:

On behalf of the Texas Hospital Association's 425 member hospitals and health systems, I urge you to adopt a "universal service" policy that enhances both rural and urban providers' access to telecommunications technology. Telecommunications technology can deliver resources and medical professionals to rural areas, where they often are inaccessible. Telemedicine can improve greatly the quality of health care for those living in rural areas.

While telemedicine offers many positive benefits, numerous rural providers simply cannot afford the high cost of telecommunications. In Texas, great distances separate many rural hospitals and an urban medical center with telemedicine capabilities. Distance charges are the main difference in telecommunications costs for rural and urban health care providers. The Texas Hospital Association urges you and your FCC colleagues to support policy which subsidizes long-distance charges.

The Internet is another valuable tool for exchanging health information. While those in urban areas can connect to an Internet Service Provider without paying toll-charges, people in rural areas usually have to pay such a fee. The Texas Hospital Association urges you and your FCC colleagues to support a policy to eliminate toll charges for rural providers if they cannot connect to the Internet via a local or toll-free call.

Telecommunications technology has the potential to enhance and improve health care delivery, but only if its costs can be lowered so that more providers can use it cost effectively. Thank you for your consideration of THA's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Joe A. DaSilva  
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs

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# SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



**SUPERINTENDENT and HUMAN RESOURCES**  
 Bruce Auld  
 (760) 375-3363  
 (760) 375-4852  
 FAX 375-3338

**INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**  
 Perry Hayes  
 (760) 375-3923  
 FAX 375-1959

**BUSINESS SERVICES**  
 Michael H. McGrath  
 (760) 375-4340  
 FAX 375-4562

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**  
 Howard N. Smith  
 (760) 375-3923  
 FAX 375-1959

District Office: 113 Felspar Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-3569

April 17, 1997

[REDACTED]

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
 Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS  
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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 Sierra Sands 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 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,

June Eierman, President  
Board of Education

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# SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SUPERINTENDENT and HUMAN RESOURCES

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District Office: 113 Felspar Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-3589

April 17, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

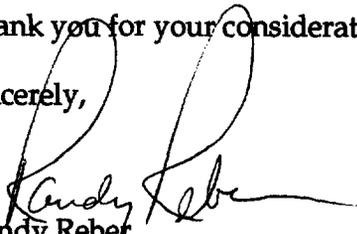
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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Randy Reber  
Board of Education

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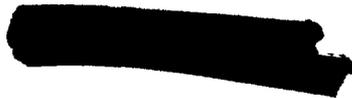
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April 17, 1997



The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

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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,

Gary Parker  
Board of Education

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Office of Secretary

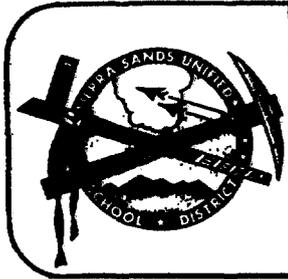
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# SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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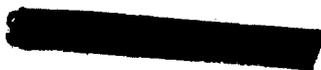
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The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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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,

*John Condos*  
John Condos, Clerk  
Board of Education

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# SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



## SUPERINTENDENT and HUMAN RESOURCES

Bruce Auld  
(760) 375-3363  
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District Office: 113 Felspar Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555-3589

April 17, 1997



The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Scott  
Board of Education

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Vacaville Unified School District

OFFICE OF  
COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS

751 School Street • Vacaville, California 95688-3987

MAY 12 2 46 PM 1997



(707) 448-3256

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Board of Education

Larry R. Mazzuca  
President

Katherine Brannon  
Vice President

Sarah E. Chapman  
Clerk

Kathleen M. Collier

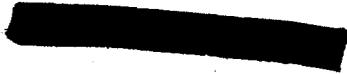
Nicholas D. Esplin

Bill Hausler

Patricia M. (Bradani) Mylott

Richard E. Jackson  
Superintendent &  
Board Secretary

April 18, 1997



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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Ness:

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,

*Patricia Mylott*

Patricia Mylott  
Board of Education  
Vacaville Unified School District

PM:lm

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Jane W. Sweet  
5011 Pine Ledge Drive  
Clarence, New York 14031

May 6, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CCDocket No.96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a school board member from Clarence Central School District in Western New York and President of the Clarence Public Library Board of Trustees, and would like 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 of our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connection for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Presently Suburban Clarence has a Distance- Learning classroom that shares teachers and curriculum with both Urban and Inner City classrooms in subjects such as Astronomy, Music Composition, and Wilderness Wise. ( A course designed to have students work as teams and become self-reliant and team oriented in the outdoors after classroom training). Another opportunity Distance Learning has provided is our Adult Community Education program with Distance Learning German I and II, and as well as providing a source for Regional Volunteer Firemen Training Sessions.

**With plans in progress for a new Public Library and the construction in progress for a new Media Center at our High School, a Community Technology Committee was established to determine how the Town, the Library and the School can best be served in the 21st Century with Technology. Hopefully the Telecommunications Act funds will provide a resource for facilitating this collaboration.**

We feel we have a unique opportunity to serve all of the stakeholders in our community.

Our students and community need the deep discounts the Joint Board's discount plan will provide for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,

Sincerely yours,



Jane W. Sweet  
Clarence School Board Member  
Clarence Public Library Trustee

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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

May 6, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to urge you to vote for the Universal Service Policy which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Millard Fillmore Health System, a large health care delivery system in western New York, is affiliated with several rural hospitals through our network, Strategic Partners. These rural providers are trying to continue, on ever dwindling reimbursements, to render access to care to the communities they serve. They are an extremely vital link in providing primary care to rural America. The goal of the Act to lessen the difference between the levels of health care services available to people in urban and rural areas, who suffer from a lack of health care resources and access to medical professionals. Telehealth can greatly improve the quality and lessen the costs of health care in rural areas, but only if telecommunications costs for telehealth applications can be lowered.

Please give your support to this policy.

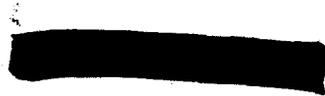
Sincerely,

*Gail Andrees*

Gail Andrees RN  
Director of Strategic Partners  
Millard Fillmore Health System



Greenwood Leflore Hospital  
So Far Advanced So Close To Home



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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary  
May 6, 1997

P.O. Box 1410  
Greenwood, MS  
38935-1410  
601-459-7000

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Commissioner Susan Ness

Dear Commissioner Ness:

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote this week to adopt regulations governing "universal service" policies as part of the implementation of the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

The universal service policies of the Act mandate that the FCC direct telecommunication rate subsidies to schools, libraries and rural health providers. In the case of health care, the FCC must make telecommunication rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunication rates for similar services in urban areas.

The goal of this provision is to lessen the difference between the quality of health care services available in urban areas and those in rural areas, many of which suffer from a lack of health care resources and access to medical professionals, as well as the burden of being at greater distances from advanced medical technology and treatment facilities.

We feel that "telehealth" has the potential to help our member hospitals and health systems improve the quality and lessen the cost of health care delivery in rural areas. That's why we hope you will help to keep the telecommunications costs for our facilities as low as possible by adopting the following policy positions related to universal service provisions:

- o Universal service should support distance charges
- o Universal service should support toll-free connections to the Internet

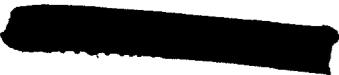
Thank you for your immediate consideration and support on this issue. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Terrell M. Cobb  
Executive Director

TMC/aj

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**Charter Parkwood Behavioral Health System**

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**MAY 20 1997**

**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary**

**MAY 8 8 45 AM '97**

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COMMISSIONER  
SUSAN NESS**

**May 7, 1997**

**Commissioner Susan Ness  
Fax: 202-418-2100  
E-Mail: sness@fcc.gov**

**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

**Dear Commissioner Ness:**

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote this week to adopt regulations governing "universal service" policies as part of the implementation of the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

The universal service policies of the Act mandate that the FCC direct telecommunication rate subsidies to schools, libraries and rural health providers. In the case of health care, the FCC must make telecommunication rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in urban areas.

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- Universal service should support distance charges.
- Universal service should support toll-free connections to the Internet.

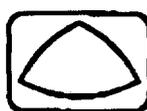
Thank you for your immediate consideration and support on this issue. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Kevin E. Blackwell  
Chief Executive Officer**

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Baptist Memorial  
Hospital Union County

Highway 30 West  
New Albany, MS 38652

CC 96-45

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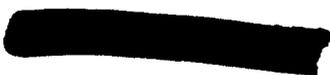
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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

John Tompkins  
Administrator



May 6, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Via Facsimile: 202-418-2821

Dear Commissioner Ness:

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote this week to adopt regulations governing "universal service" policies as part of the implementation of the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

The universal service policies of the Act mandate that the FCC direct telecommunication rate subsidies to schools, libraries and rural health providers. In the case of health care, the FCC must make telecommunication rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in urban areas.

The goal of this provision is to lessen the difference between the quality of health care services available in urban areas and those in rural areas, many of which suffer from a lack of health care resources and access to medical professionals, as well as the burden of being at greater distances from advanced medical technology and treatment facilities.

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- Universal service should support distance charges.
- Universal service should support toll-free connections to the Internet.

Thank you for your immediate consideration and support on this issue. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*John Tompkins*  
John Tompkins  
Administrator

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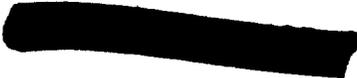
# Purdue University

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Agricultural Communication Service

 Voice (765) 494-8396  
 FAX (765) 496-1117

**FAX**


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 MAY 20 1997  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of Secretary

**TO:** Susan Ness, Federal Communications Commission  
**FAX #** (202) 418-2821  
**FROM:** Dave King, Department Head  
 Agricultural Communication  
**DATE:** May 7, 1997  
**RE:** Universal Service Fund Comment  
 Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Total Pages (including cover sheet):2

In response to request for comment on the Universal Service Fund of the 1996 Telecom Act, we suggest that the local educational foundation which can draw on this fund for high speed data connections be expanded to include the more than 3000 county Extension offices nationwide.

Rationale below:

Cooperative Extension Offices—Part of a Three Way Community Educational Foundation

The Cooperative Extension Service is made up of community-based educational centers in every county of Indiana. These county extension offices are sources of education and information for citizens of Indiana. The county extension educators who live in these communities collaborate with and extend beyond the traditional boundaries of K-12 and libraries.

Although regularly misidentified as the "agricultural" Extension service, county extension offices provide information and education for consumers, leaders and businesses in every community across the state. Beyond the traditionally well known areas of agriculture and food production, county extension educators provide educational opportunities in many areas of leadership development, consumer issues, and family issues—the basic fabric of local communities.

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FCC Fax

May 7, 1997

page 2

Among the educational opportunities and programs are available from county educators are:

- aging society issues
- careers and job training
- child care
- economic development
- environmental education
- solid wastes management
- water quality
- interpersonal relations
- leadership development
- nutrition and health
- science education

In Indiana alone the last year, the more than 240 county extension educators participated in a total of more than 4 million educational contacts statewide. This includes one-on-one, workshops and seminars, and telephone contacts. In addition 20,000 people statewide volunteer as educators and leaders with gardeners, 4-H clubs, consumers, and community leaders. This can be multiplied by each state.

The Cooperative Extension Service is part of a land-grant university network connecting every county in every state with every other county in every other state. The educational materials and programs which are used at the community level are developed by faculty and staff at land-grant universities through out the country. These programs are developed in direct response to the community needs as identified by county extension educators at the grassroots level.

This issue is how to characterize the county extension service. Our concern is that the Cooperative Extension Service, with county extension offices in every county of the state be clearly recognized a part of the three-way educational foundation of every community—K-12 schools, libraries, *and* county extension offices. Reaching out more than 4 million times each year with education and information—sometimes independently and many times in collaboration with schools and libraries—in broad-based areas that improve adult and young people's capabilities and quality of life clearly makes the case for this recognition.

Our FAX number is (317) 496-1117  
If you have problems, please call (317) 494-8396

**INTEGRIS**  
Bass Baptist Health Center

P.O. Box 3168  
Enid, OK 73702  
(405) 233-2300  
(405) 233-8802 Fax

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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

TO: Commissioner Susan Ness

FR: W. Eugene Baxter, Dr. P.H., Administrator

RE: Telecommunications Regulations

DATE: May 7, 1997

Integris Bass Baptist Health Center asks for your consideration and support of two matters within the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

▶ Universal Service should support distance charges.

To bring telecommunications for health care providers from Fairview, Oklahoma to a hub site in Enid, Oklahoma would be cost prohibitive. Fairview is 45 miles from Enid. If U.S. Territory West base rates of \$14 per mile per month were used, a base cost of \$7,560 per year would be required. Budget expenditures of \$5,000-\$10,000 per year are critical items in rural hospitals.

Many rural hospital boards would be forced to choose between necessary items and telecommunication in their annual budgets. The elimination of distance charges is essential to encourage rural hospitals to participate in a network that can bring needed services to rural Oklahomans who cannot access those services on their own.

▶ Universal Service should support toll-free connections to the Internet.

Many rural health care providers access the Internet as a valuable tool to support their educational needs and clinical practices.

Rural areas are asked to pay toll charges to reach an Internet Service Provider (ISP). This is another cost barrier to the utilization of the telecommunication networks as a valuable medical tool. We request your support for long distance charges associated with the use of ISP.

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*Thomas H. Boyd Memorial Hospital*

R.H.C., G.C.A., R.M.N.H.

800 School Street • Carrollton, Illinois 62016  
Telephone (217) 942-6946 • Fax (217) 942-9012

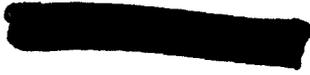
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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 7, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness  
Fax # 202-418-2821

RE: Universal Service Vote

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Please support this universal service policy as being a key element for small rural hospitals in using telemedicine systems. This also will help deliver a cost effective Internet service to our facility.

Our facility is a 73 bed rural hospital located in Central Illinois. Our population consists of mainly medicare and medicaid recipients. We are looking to provide better service to our residents by using a telemedicine system. Your support is greatly appreciated.

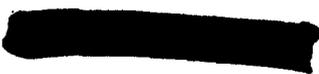
Sincerely,

*Deborah Campbell*

Deborah Campbell  
Administrator

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# FAX TRANSMISSION

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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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## HENDRY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

500 WEST SUGARLAND HIGHWAY  
CLEWISTON, FLORIDA 33440  
(941) 902-3076  
FAX: (941) 983-2979

**To:** Commissioner Susan Ness, FCC      **Date:** May 7, 1997  
**Fax #:** 202-418-2821                      **Pages:** 1, including this cover sheet.  
**From:** Rudy Reinhardt, CEO  
**Subject:** Telecommunication Regulations Affecting Telemedicine

**COMMENTS:** Strongly support the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This act will positively impact our ability to obtain timely medical information in our rural health care environment. The current rate for telecommunications in the rural area makes Internet referral services too costly for this medical center. Universal service would allow rural health care providers better access to telecommunications services. I urge the FCC to support the subsidy of distance charges. It is essential for rural health care providers to have ready and reasonably priced access to information and telemedicine services.

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MAY 20 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

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

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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,

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