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**From:** Yvette Ramirez Ammerman <nmpca@swcp.com>  
**To:** A7.A7(WKENNARD)  
**Date:** 8/5/98 3:09pm  
**Subject:** Comments regarding re-organization of RHCC

cc Documents 97-21 /  
and 96-45

DA 98-1336

August 5, 1998

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW - Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20544  
ATTN: Commission Secretary Magalie Roman Salas

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Chairman,

The New Mexico Primary Care Association has recently learned of the FCC's intention to reorganize the Rural Health Care Corporation, Schools and Libraries Corporation and the Universal Service Administrative Company into one entity. We commend the FCC for its efforts to consolidate these separate entities into one.

We are, however, concerned with the proposal to create a board of 18 members with only one rural health care representative included on the board. Our concern is that the low representation on the board will result in a lack of understanding, expertise and information regarding the special needs of rural constituencies and health care delivery. Our fear is that important decisions made by the board may not reflect rural health interests with such disproportionately low representation.

We urge you to increase the number of rural health care representatives on the proposed USAC board and ensure the Rural Health Care Advisory Committee is completely composed of rural telehealth and health care experts. The telecommunications needs for the delivery of health care services to rural America requires a unique expertise that the proposed board make-up simply cannot fully address.

The rural user community deserves to be fully represented in the new consolidated company; parity needs to exist between all the constituents of universal service.

As an organization committed to serving rural and underserved populations in New Mexico, we are acutely aware of the unique problems associated with meeting the health care needs of rural communities.

We strongly urge you to take a closer look at the need to ensure equitable and adequate representation of rural health interests on the new USAC board.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sincerely,

Yvette Ramirez Ammerman, Executive Director  
New Mexico Primary Care Association

cc: New Mexico National Delegation