



January 14, 2016

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of CC Docket No. 02-60

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The American Telemedicine Association (ATA) strongly supports the petition by the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition asking the Commission to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend Part 54 of the Commission's rules to further modernize the Rural Health Care program.

This program continues to fall short of its objectives – and potential. Most telling is that almost \$3 billion of the allotment for health care support was not spent in the 2005-2013 period. On several occasions in the past ATA has pointed out the shortcomings of the program and has suggested various initiatives the Commission might pursue to improve the program and help obligate the funds that are targeted to America's health care providers. These funds are vitally needed to take fuller advantage of telecommunications goods and services to improve the delivery of American health care.

The petition of the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition et al of this Docket lays out a compelling case for reform now and some prudent proposals to initiate Commission and public consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan D. Linkous".

Jonathan D. Linkous
Chief Executive Officer