

February 22, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* in WC Docket No. 02-60

Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceedings. On Thursday, February 18, 2015, Hank Fanberg, Director of Technology Advocacy, CHRISTUS Health,¹ and undersigned counsel, met with Stephanie Weiner, Associate General Counsel and Special Advisor to Chairman Wheeler, and Ryan Palmer, Division Chief, and Radhika Karmarkar, Deputy Division Chief of Wireline Competition Bureau's Telecommunications Access Policy Division. We also met separately with Travis Litman, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel, and Nicholas Degani, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Pai. Finally, we met with the Commission's Connect2Health Task Force.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the petition for rulemaking in the Rural Health Care program docket filed by the Schools Health Libraries Broadband ("SHLB") coalition and other petitioners. CHRISTUS supports the petition and agrees that growing rural health disparities and rapid technological changes in the health care industry warrant further program reforms.

We also discussed CHRISTUS' letter urging the Commission to consider allowing eligible rural health care providers to obtain Rural Health Care program support for broadband costs associated

¹ CHRISTUS Health ("CHRISTUS") is the lead entity and member of the Texas Health Information Network Collaborative ("TxHINC"), a Rural Health Care pilot program awardee. Mr. Fanberg, who is Assistant Project Manager of TxHINC, appeared representing CHRISTUS Health and not TxHINC.

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with connecting to patients being remotely monitored.² We noted that SHLB petitioners supported CHRISTUS' proposal along with commenters NTCA and TracFone Wireless.³

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Mitchell
Counsel for CHRISTUS Health

² See Letter from George S. Conklin, Senior Vice President and CIO, CHRISTUS Health, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Mar. 30, 2015), filed in WC Docket No. 02-60.

³ See NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association comments at 21; TracFone Wireless, Inc., comments at 7-9.