



The Carle Foundation  
611 West Park Street, Urbana, IL 61801-2595

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

Dear Chairman Kennard,

As an advocate for better medical health care in rural areas, I would like to urge more rural health representation in the proposed USAC Plan of Reorganization. As the Telemedicine Coordinator for Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois, I have found that there is often a real lack of understanding of rural issues and concerns at the federal level, and from those who reside and have always resided in urban areas.

As I understand the proposal, there will only be one rural health care representative in the entire organization of the 18 member governing board of the USAC and its two committees overseeing rural health care and schools and libraries. I think this is unacceptable and will prohibit understanding and communication between these boards and the rural areas and interests they are supposed to represent. The Rural Health Care Advisory Committee, in particular, I feel cannot provide the USAC board with any real advice or expertise on telemedicine and telehealth issues when only one of its members has any experience in that arena. How can that committee *truly* fulfill its advisory role? I would ask that all seven members of that committee have experience in rural health and telemedicine issues.

Also, the lack of rural representation may prohibit equal treatment of those of us who are constituents of universal services – an essential funding program for providing telemedicine consults to remote areas.

Please reconsider the structure of these committees, and possibly allowing for non-USAC members to be participants in order to more fully represent rural health issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andra Lee Bez  
Carle Telemedicine Coordinator  
217/383-3216

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