

Illinois Department of
Public Health

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Jim Edgar, Governor, John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

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July 21, 1998

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CC: 96-45

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

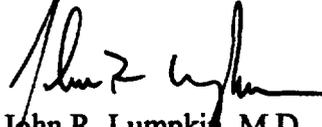
On behalf of The Illinois Department of Public Health, I am writing to comment on the proposed consolidation of the Rural Health Care Corporation (RHCC), Schools and Libraries Corporation, and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). This plan of reorganization is filed as docket numbers 97-21, 96-45 and DA 98-1336.

I am deeply concerned that in this consolidation there will be only one rural health representative on the 18 member board of the new corporation and that there will be only one rural health representative on the seven member rural health advisory committee. The full USAC board will be better served by an advisory committee composed entirely of members possessing experience in rural health and telehealth services.

Please increase the representation of rural health care interests to include rural health members who understand the issues of access, cost, and quality impacting rural health care in America, and who see the benefits of telehealth as a medium for positively impacting these issues. Only with fair representation on the board and committee can the voice of rural America best be served.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


John R. Lumpkin, M.D.
Director of Public Health

Handwritten initials: OHI
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