



# American Academy of Physician Assistants

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 14, 1998

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Room 222  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing in reference to the Rural Health Care Corporation Request for Extension of Initial Funding Year (CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 98-2468). I urge the Commission to grant the Rural Health Care Corporation's (RHCC's) request for an extension.

Extending RHCC's current funding year will benefit participants in RHCC's programs in a number of ways. First, applicants who applied late in the year will be able to reap some of the benefits of the program before undertaking the application process once again. More importantly, participants in the program will have more time to finalize their negotiations with telecommunications service providers. Furthermore, RHCC will have additional time to institute changes to program operations that will benefit both current and future participants.

As with any new program, RHCC will need time to refine its operations. By granting a one-time extension to the funding year the FCC will give participating health care providers, telecommunications companies, and RHCC staff the additional time needed to improve the program and enable it to better deliver the services for which it was designed. Therefore, I ask that the Commission grant RHCC's request and extend the current funding year until July 30, 1999.

Sincerely,

Ron Nelson, PA-C  
President  
American Academy of Physician Assistants

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