

# UAMS



**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY**

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

**Curtis L. Lowery, M.D.**  
Professor and Chairman

June 15, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Robert McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 07-52

Dear FCC Chairman & Commissioners:

The University of Arkansas' Antenatal and Neonatal Guidelines, Education, and Learning System (ANGELS) is an innovative consultative service for a wide range of physicians including family practitioners, obstetricians, neonatologists and pediatricians in Arkansas. The ANGELS program allows these prenatal specialists to connect with rural hospitals in the state using real-time videoconferencing. This technology allows physicians to make long-distance patient consultations and create evidence-based guidelines for neonatal care. Reliable broadband service is critical to achieving our mission.

Given our dependence on broadband, we are moved to share our views with the FCC as it considers broadband industry practices. For us, broadband is an enabling technology that delivers critical health care services to previously underserved parts of our state. We would be concerned by policy decisions that might inhibit the fulfillment of our mission or prevent the continued enhancement of the ANGELS program.

In particular, we are concerned by aggressive net neutrality regulations that would reduce the reliability of networks or could cause delays that interfere with telemedicine services. For example, transmission delays that degrade the quality of medical images would greatly compromise the effectiveness of certain types of telemedicine services.

Rather than restrict the ability of network managers to provide advanced services, we believe the Commission and other policymakers should create incentives that expand broadband deployment, enhance reliability and security, and stimulate network operators to provide a greater range of choices that can be tailored to meet the needs of telemedicine providers.

We hope the FCC's examination of the broadband industry will reject unnecessary regulations that could narrow the range of broadband services and hamper the development of telemedicine. Telemedicine services have very specific requirements that can differ significantly from the requirements of the average residential user of broadband. We hope the Commission will recognize that different services and applications have different technical requirements and will allow network providers the ability to meet the needs of diverse users by offering diverse services.

We believe the ANGELS program and others like it elsewhere in the United States are making an important contribution to improved health for young mothers and their children. With the help of policies that enhance broadband, we believe even greater achievements are possible. We urge the Commission to seek ways to promote even better broadband services and to reject regulations that could send us into reverse.

Sincerely yours,

Curtis L. Lowery, M.D.

—ESTABLISHED 1879—

*Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) and the Central Arkansas Veterans' Healthcare System (CAVHS) are comprehensive clinical, teaching and research affiliates of the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. UAMS faculty physicians and surgeons are on staff at ACH and CAVHS.*

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