

September 27, 2010

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:)
)
Rural Health Care Support Mechanism) GN Docket No. 02-60

**REPLY COMMENTS OF NORTH ARKANSAS REGIONAL MEDICAL
CENTER EMERGENCYMEDICAL SERVICES – FCC NOTICE OF PROPOSED
RULEMAKING (NPRM) IN THE MATTER OF RURAL HEALTH CARE
SUPPORT MECHANISM**

The North Arkansas Regional Medical Emergency Medical Services hereby submits its Reply Comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC” or “Commission”) July 15, 2010 Public Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“*Notice*” or “NPRM”) in the above-referenced proceeding.¹ As part of the *Notice*, the FCC proposes and seeks comment on reforms to the universal service health care support mechanism that are consistent with the recommendations set forth in the National Broadband Plan to expand the reach and use of broadband connectivity for and by public and non-profit health care providers.

Our Office is vitally concerned about the ability of rural providers in our state, including those provided by our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers, to be able to provide health care to rural populations now and into the future. These providers must be able to access and exchange health care information and data. It is essential that these comments are heard and supported in order to maximize the benefit of the, “Program to Expand Investment in Broadband Health Care Technology,” ensuring sustainability, quality and cost effectiveness of rural healthcare.

To that end we fully support the comments made by the National Organization for State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH). We also give additional attention and support to our colleagues in the emergency medical services (EMS) who urgently warrant inclusion into our national healthcare delivery model. Without the vital link of EMS, the disparate parts of our current healthcare delivery system will remain fractured, costly and be limited to the quality they can provide. We therefore fully support the comments provided by the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO). (Both original comments attached)

Sincerely,

Brian Unruh
Director of NARMC EMS
NARMC EMS
Harrison, AR 72601¹

FCC Program to Expand Investment in Broadband Health Care Technology. Public Notice, FCC 10-125 (rel. July, 15, 2010)