



October 22, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 02-60, Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Further Comment on
Issues in the Rural Health Care Reform Proceeding

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This written *ex parte* filing is being submitted by the West Health Institute. On October 22, 2012, Mo Kaushal, MD and Kerry McDermott, MPH offered input related to efforts to reform the Rural Health Care Program. Wireline Competition Bureau participants included Linda Oliver, Christianna Barnhart, Mark Walker and Chin Yoo. The discussion focused on how the provision of healthcare is evolving, including payment and care delivery models, use of incentives versus penalties, increased information exchange, and redefining the skillset of the healthcare workforce. We addressed the need for robust wired and wireless infrastructure to support high-quality, lower-cost healthcare delivery. We noted the importance of broad-based connectivity such that both urban and rural sites can participate in the data exchange needed to care for their populations. Finally, we explored means of prioritizing funding, with recommendations to focus on achieving health-related outcomes and targeting high-cost patient populations (eg, dual eligibles).

Respectfully submitted,

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