



August 2, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* disclosure pursuant to 47 CFR § 1.1206(b) in WC Docket 13-184; WC Docket No. 12-375; BO Docket No. 12-30

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday August 1, 2013 the following individuals, who represent members of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Media and Telecommunications Task Force, met with several members of the Commission staff. Attending the meeting were: Corrine Yu, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Cheryl Leanza, United Church of Christ, OC Inc., Task Force Co-Chair; Gabe Rottman, American Civil Liberties Union, Task Force Co-Chair; Hazeen Ashby, National Urban League, Michael Scurato, National Hispanic Media Coalition, Todd O'Boyle, Common Cause, met with Commissioner Rosenworcel and her advisors Priscilla Argeris and Valery Galasso. On Friday, August 2, Ms. Yu, Ms. Leanza, and Ms. Ashby, joined by Edward Carlson, National Council of La Raza; Chance Williams, Free Press; and Clarissa Ramon, Public Knowledge met with Matthew Berry of Commissioner Pai's office and Rebekah Goodheart of Chairwoman Clyburn's office and Travis Litman of the Wireline Competition Bureau. In addition, Cheryl Leanza held a short telephone conversation with Ms. Goodheart and Mr. Grimaldi.

With Commissioner Rosenworcel, we expressed our interest in the Commission's proposed e-rate reforms and the President's ConnectED initiative. We emphasized our long-standing support for the Lifeline program and the complementary nature of e-rate and Lifeline. We explained that the Lifeline program and the e-rate program should not compete for the same funds. We urged the Commissioner to support the inmate calling draft order circulated by the Chairwoman. We urged the Commission to address the full range of fees that impact inmate telephone calls, as well as the rates and per-call charges. Finally, we emphasized our strong support for rapid completion of the Commission's proposed Critical Information Needs/Section 257 studies, in time for the 2014 Quadrennial Review.

With Mr. Berry, the group emphasized the importance of moving on the prison phone proceeding next Friday. We explained we were gratified with his willingness to meet with us and we were hoping he would support the draft order. The civil rights

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community is very interested in the outcome of this proceeding. Ms. Yu explained that the record contained evidence of the important connection between telephone contact and bringing down recidivism. The service providers have had an opportunity to demonstrate the costs of offering service and they have not done so. We emphasized that we do not believe that the cost structure for serving jails is any different from serving prisons. Even if the time spent in jail is short, that time is a critical one for inmates requiring telephone calls. Access to counsel and contact with family members is critical when someone has just been detained. Moreover, Ms. Ashby emphasized that any description of time spent in jail should rely upon accurate measures—a median number is not an accurate mathematical measure to use. In addition, Mr. Carlson explained how people detained for immigration-related matters often disappear, and without a call, family members have no way of knowing where their loved one might be. Immigration detainees often spend considerable time in jail and then are often transported a long distance across state lines to immigration detention facilities. Their defense requires specialized legal counsel which can be difficult to obtain with a limited number of free calls. Moreover, whether a jail offers some free calls to inmates does not justify considerably higher rates.

The group generally emphasized that the mechanism used to bring down rates is less important than the fact that rates for family members is brought down to the lowest possible level. We have supported Martha Wright's position and we do not think that any limit on per-minute rates should exceed her original request, which was proposed many years ago when rates were much higher than they are now. Ms. Ramon pointed out that claims that providers might exit the market if rates are lowered are overstated. She pointed out that states where reforms had been adopted had not experienced vast changes in other rates. However, Ms. Leanza emphasized that the Commission should address the full range of fees, including ancillary fees, which are part of the inter-state calling services.

With Ms. Goodheart and Mr. Litman the group largely reiterated the points made in our meeting with Mr. Berry. We emphasized our strong support for the Chairwoman's leadership and the importance of addressing the full range of fees. We explained that the same company that provides service to prisons often provide that service to jails, and that those costs would not be very different from facility to facility since much of the infrastructure is shared among all of a single provider's clients. Ms. Leanza's telephone conversation with Mr. Grimaldi and Ms. Goodheart also described the importance of a comprehensive order addressing a full range of fees.

Sincerely,



Cheryl A. Leanza
Policy Advisor United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
Co-Chair, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights,
Media and Telecommunications Task Force