

September 25, 2013

Via ECFS

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

Re: *Notice of Ex Parte Presentation*
Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, September 23, 2013, the bipartisan Digital Learning Task Force of the Council of Chief State School Officers (“CCSSO”), including Tom Luna and Melissa McGrath (State of Idaho), Tim Torlakson, Erika Hughes, Julia Martin, Craig Cheslog, and Becca Barrett (State of California), Jeff Mao (State of Maine), Diane DeBacker (State of Kansas), Brittany Kincaid and Adrienne Gardner (State of Arkansas), Kathryn Matayoshi (State of Hawaii), and Tamara Darnall (State of South Dakota), Jessah Foulk and the undersigned of CCSSO, as well as Brad Gillen, counsel to the Education Coalition, met separately with Commissioner Ajit Pai and Nicholas Degani, Commissioner Pai’s Legal Advisor; Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and Priscilla Delgado Argeris, Commissioner Rosenworcel’s Legal Advisor; and Rebekah Goodheart, legal advisor for Acting Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn, Michael Steffen of the Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis, and Trent Harkrader and Lisa Hone of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the critical need for E-Rate reform.¹

During the meetings, the Digital Learning Task Force presented educators’ perspectives regarding the importance of digital learning and the Commission’s proceeding. The Task Force focused on the risk of a new achievement gap between those students with digital skills and digital access and those without, particularly in rural America.

The Task Force stressed the urgency of E-Rate reform, a critical investment in America’s future economic competitiveness. In particular, CCSSO and meeting participants emphasized that schools need sufficient connectivity to connect all students to digital materials, instruction, and assessments.

The Task Force urged the FCC to promote consortium purchasing to reduce costs, improve strategic use of limited funds, and increase program efficiency. The need to remove current disincentives to consortium participation, the potential for new incentives to future consortium participation, and the need to address state and federal procurement laws were also discussed.

¹ Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 28 FCC Rcd 11304 (2013) (“NPRM”).



Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter Zamora

Peter Zamora, Director of Federal Relations, CCSSO

cc: Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Rebekah Goodheart
Priscilla Delgado Argeris
Nicholas Degani
Michael Steffen
Trent Harkrader
Lisa Hone

