



February 9, 2021

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re:
Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184
Addressing the Homework Gap through the E-rate Program, WC Docket No. 21-31

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 4, 2021, John Windhausen, Jr., executive director of the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition; SHLB members Deb Kriete (SECA), Keith Krueger (CoSN), Julia Fallon (SETDA), Marijke Visser (ALA), Michael Calabrese (New America/OTI) and Gina Spade (Broadband Legal Strategies) spoke via conference call with Kris Monteith, Lisa Hone, Sue McNeil, Ryan Palmer, Kate Dumouchel, Johnnay Schrieber, Gabriela Gross, and Molly O'Connor of the Wireline Competition Bureau regarding the E-rate Remote Learning Petition filed by the SHLB Coalition and several other parties on January 26, 2021.

We discussed how important it is for the Commission to promote digital equity and provide E-rate support for affordable broadband service for students and patrons off-campus, including at home, on an emergency basis during the COVID pandemic. We suggested that the Commission could take at least three steps to promote affordable broadband for remote learning: (1) it could waive the cost allocation rule to permit schools and libraries to extend service off-campus without requiring them to cost allocate out any expenses; (2) it could use reserve funding already collected for E-rate purposes to provide additional funding to schools and libraries to provide service off-campus; and (3) it could provide additional funding up to the E-rate cap to fund these same activities.

We also suggested that the Commission could open a new application window for E-rate remote learning applications that could close at the end of April that is separate from the application window for the traditional E-rate program (which ends on March 26). We also suggested that E-rate remote learning funding could be used to purchase service from existing broadband service providers or to purchase network equipment capable of providing broadband service off-campus.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Windhausen, Jr." in a cursive script.

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Cc:

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