

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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
Service	)	

**ORDER**

**Adopted: February 26, 2001**

**Released: February 27, 2001**

By the Common Carrier Bureau:

1. On January 23, 2001, the Commission released a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) in CC Docket No. 96-45, seeking comment on implementation of the Children's Internet Protection Act (the CHIP Act), which was signed into law on December 21, 2000 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Pub. L. 106-554).<sup>1</sup> The FNPRM directed that comments regarding the CHIP Act be submitted to the Commission within 15 days of publication of the FNPRM in the Federal Register, with reply comments due seven days later. The FNPRM was published on January 31, 2001. Comments therefore were due on February 15, 2001, and reply comments were due by February 22, 2001. On February 15, 2001, the American Library Association (ALA) submitted a Motion for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments.<sup>2</sup>

2. In its pleading, the ALA requests that the Commission extend the period of time for filing reply comments in this matter for seven days, through March 1, 2001.<sup>3</sup> Noting the brief comment cycle, the ALA states that the extension is necessary in order to adequately obtain and analyze others' comments, obtain views from its own members, and prepare reply comments. The ALA suggests that the quality of the rules adopted by the Commission would be improved if affected parties could have additional time in which to analyze the comments of others and respond thoughtfully.<sup>4</sup>

3. We deny the ALA's request for an extension of the February 22, 2001 date for filing reply comments. Although the current pleading schedule is compressed, we do not believe that we can extend the filing date for reply comments without compromising the Commission's ability to meet the implementation schedule mandated by Congress, which requires that the

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<sup>1</sup> *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 01-31 (rel. January 23, 2001).

<sup>2</sup> American Library Association, Motion for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments, filed February 15, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1-2.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

Commission have rules governing implementation of the CHIP Act in effect by April 20, 2001.<sup>5</sup>

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the Motion for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments filed by the American Library Association is DENIED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Carol E. Matthey  
Deputy Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

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<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(h). The Commission must prescribe regulations pursuant to section 254(l) as of April 20, 2001 as well. See the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Pub. L. 106-554) § 1733.