

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4304

April 27, 2011

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Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to you concerning the Federal Communications Commission proposed reforms to the Rural Health Care Program of the Universal Service Fund. The Brazos Valley Council of Governments has notified me that it is closely monitoring these efforts.

I am requesting the Federal Communications Commission carefully consider changes to the universal service health care support mechanism. The Brazos Valley Council of Governments has informed me that it supports a final rule which includes an open and competitive bidding process to seek funding for the construction of broadband health networks. The Council has already created a non-profit entity, Brazos 2020 Vision, with the goal of providing affordable connections to health care facilities in the area. A properly designed and administered health infrastructure program could provide significant telemedicine benefits to the Brazos Valley in a cost-effective manner.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact David Quinalty at 4 - 0827.

Sincerely,


Kay Bailey Hutchison

KBH/lh