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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0922**

July 26, 2012

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

MILITARY PERSONNEL

SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INVESTIGATIONS, OVERSIGHT,  
AND REGULATIONS  
CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE

Mr. Julius Genachowski  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the School District of Palm Beach County and the many other E-Rate recipients.

As you know, the nationwide requests for the 2012-2013 School Year E-Rate funding far exceeds the available funds, which leaves the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to answer how they will appropriate the funds available to them. The funding shortfall has occurred in a critical time for the nation and specifically the School District of Palm Beach County where local revenue shortfalls and an overwhelming need for infrastructure upgrades directly impact classrooms and students.

As you decide how the E-Rate funds will be appropriated, I ask you to consider the following points as guidelines:

- E-Rate funding for Internal Connections (Priority 2) should be distributed first to those who have not received these funds in the past. The highest priority for receiving these funds should go to those school districts that qualify and have never received Priority 2. This would add a fairness and equity component to the decision process.
- Digital Literacy Training should not be funded from E-Rate funds. An underfunded program should not be burdened with other responsibilities, which severely compromises the ability for it to meet the original and primary objectives. Digital Literacy is very important, but must not be funded from E-Rate funds.
- E-Rate funds for Priority 2 must not be held for future years. It must be distributed now. A missed year of instruction is unrecoverable.
- If prorating of Priority 2 funds is a necessity, then it should apply only to those who have received Priority 2 in the past. However, those applying for the first time should receive the full amount for which they are qualified.

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Rate  
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Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any further questions.

Steadfast and Loyal,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen B. West". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allen B. West  
Member of Congress

AW/jg

cc: Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner  
Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner  
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner  
Ajit Pai, Commissioner  
David Robbins, Managing Director