



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

March 8, 2013

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Al Franken  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Universal Service Rural Health Care Fund. I appreciate your interest in this matter and am pleased to provide the enclosed letter on this issue from the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau's Telecommunications Access Policy Division.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal stroke, is positioned above the printed name.

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 8, 2013

The Honorable Al Franken  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your letter expressing your support for the Commission's 2010 proposal to make skilled nursing facilities eligible for rural health care support.

On December 21, 2012, the Commission adopted the *Healthcare Connect Fund Order*, which launched the new Healthcare Connect Fund to expand health care provider access to broadband services and foster state and regional broadband health care networks. In addition, the Commission created a new Skilled Nursing Facilities Pilot Program, which will be implemented in 2014. This program will test how to support broadband connections for skilled nursing facilities. The Commission has approved up to \$50 million over a three-year period for the pilot program. The text of the Order can be found on the Commission's website at [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-150A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-150A1.doc)

Thank you for your interest in this important matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly A. Scardino", is written over the typed name and title.

Kimberly A. Scardino  
Acting Chief  
Telecommunications Access Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau