



SHLB Coalition Congressional Policy Meeting Notes

April 14th, 2026

Action Items

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I. **Mary Huang**, Ranking Member with Matsui's Office

A. USF Working Group

They are still working productively and are amidst of discussions

1. In terms of E-Rate, there has been positive discussions regarding Cybersecurity, especially with advocacy from groups like SHLB
2. Senator Fischer has been a great addition, but since there has been some staff turnover, it has affected timing a little bit.
 - a) Mid April is the anticipated timeline of bringing on the new staffer.
 - (1) Jonas from Senator Moran's office
3. Exact timing is hard to predict, they are hoping to get a discussion draft in the next month or two. Once they have something available to share more publicly, they will be reaching out to get more stakeholder input

B. BEAD

1. Non-Deployment Funds
 - a) They also have their eyes on when the guidance will be released.
2. -: Timing of information flow from NTIA. Do we know how or when the NTIA will release results?
 - a) They are also curious about the specific details on what format will release the data and unsure of the timeline, but NTIA has a goal of the end of May to finish working through the data.
3. -: I sent in a letter regarding Satellite funding through non-deployment funds to encourage more adoption. Has there been any traction?
 - a) Curious to hear if there is any room in the hearing to ask about this topic and licensing. Thanks for sending the letter!
 - b) The hearing is next Tuesday (4/21) in the afternoon.
4. 1996 Telecom Act
 - a) Matsui sees it more as an update rather than a full change
 - b) They are looking at ways to make sure that it is achieving its goals with USF and funding
5. -: Is there anything that we can do for you to help you?

- a) Once we get more writing and data from NTIA, feedback will be great to hear. Feedback about anticipatory ways of how to make sure we are still moving forward with USF. The storytelling and data is always helpful too.
- II. Last Thursday, we saw the agenda for the 4/30 FCC meeting that had an item regarding a draft E-Rate Report in order.
 - A. [Document](#)
 - B. Contains two different items
 - 1. Competitive Bidding Portal for the E-Rate Portal.
 - a) Was originally in conversation in 2021 and will now be voted on
 - 2. Streamlining E-Rate Program
 - a) This is an item from 2023 regarding processes, forms and the portal itself.
 - C. We've already had conversations with Gomez' staff.
 - 1. We do not support the portal as it will provide burdens for service providers and USAC.
 - 2. There are specific state and local requirements and there is potential for a lot of confusion and areas in which it can conflict.
 - 3. If they do move forward with it, we are recommending heavy stakeholder feedback
 - a) Beta Testing
 - b) After the rollout, have a very precise mechanism for stakeholders to provide feedback
 - c) Extend the rollout date of the portal by a year.

SHLB's next USF Congressional policy group call will reconvene on May 12th, 2026 at 2:00 pm ET.

CHAT

2026-04-14 14:02:48 From Henery Wyand to Everyone:

<https://www.shlb.org/events/shlb-webinar-transforming-rural-health-understanding-and-leveraging-the-rural-health-transformation-program>

2026-04-14 14:03:12 From Elle Thompson (she/her) to Everyone:
Bring a friend!

2026-04-14 14:04:12 From Henery Wyand to Everyone:
<https://www.shlb.org/events/defending-the-usf-after-scotus>

2026-04-14 14:15:56 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:
USF webpage: <https://www.shlb.org/protect-usf>

2026-04-14 14:26:32 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420717A1.pdf>

2026-04-14 14:32:27 From -: to Everyone:
how do they incorporate all state and local procurement rules?

2026-04-14 14:35:43 From -: to Everyone:
The portal will likely reduce spam bids

2026-04-14 14:36:38 From -: to Everyone:
Kristen - on the topic of portals, any insights from the USAC call?

2026-04-14 14:37:54 From -: to Everyone:
ALA comments stated "bids released by state government agencies resulting in State Master Contracts should not be required to use any E-rate bidding portal."

2026-04-14 14:39:21 From -: to Everyone:
Complying with local/state bid requirements has always been in the program but the portal will create more issues on compliance.

2026-04-14 14:41:53 From -: to Everyone:
Love it, Michael!

2026-04-14 14:42:03 From -: to Everyone:
Haha!

2026-04-14 14:42:37 From -: to Everyone:
Aloha!

2026-04-14 14:42:51 From Elle Thompson (she/her) to Everyone:
Aloha Sean!

2026-04-14 14:43:38 From -: to Everyone:
Thanks Kristen!

2026-04-14 14:46:33 From Elle Thompson (she/her) to Everyone:
this is the main SHLB clique now

2026-04-14 14:47:24 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:
Randy - <https://www.usac.org/about/leadership/quarterly-meeting-schedule/>

2026-04-14 14:49:05 From Elle Thompson (she/her) to Everyone:
We forgive you

