



## SHLB Coalition USF Congressional Policy Meeting Notes

5.13.25

### Action Items from call:

- What happens with E-Rate contracts if the hotspot program is unwound? Contact FCC
- Meet with Mullen staff

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### I. Hotspots CRA

- A. SHLB (and others) drafting sign on letter to send to House Reps
- B. JW/KC: Senate vote last month – Coalition call (5/13/25)
- C. JW/Member: EdLink and large letter – signatories on signing the USF, request of signature for House – similar to Senate letter, but with context following the House vote
  1. Here's the draft letter:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zsj9TyeKVo2vIJy6JkT4VHgcZL07\\_acncdxKzsPuED0/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zsj9TyeKVo2vIJy6JkT4VHgcZL07_acncdxKzsPuED0/edit?tab=t.0)
  2. Member: HJ Res 33 and S.J.Res 7 the same for marketing purposes
    - a) Member: implicit question, should these potential decisions/bills be synchronized in efforts?
      - (1) JW/member – outreach to FCC inroad/potential, especially for 471 potentially problematic filings (eg wrong policy filings – hotspots vs schoolbuses, etc)
      - (2) Member: Consider both energy and telecoms
      - (3) Member: consider grassroots school district input

### II. USF Reform

- A. Sullivan quote: "I'm a huge E-rate supporter" (Communications Daily, 5/1/25) –
- B. Simington quote
  1. [Nathan Simington and Gavin Wax: It's Time For Trump To DOGE The FCC](#)
  2. JW on USF: Specifically discusses how E-Rate and Lifeline have exceeded their usefulness

3. Member: Simington is a data guy, so need to use data regarding evidence as to why USF programming works/helps huge amounts of constituents
4. JW: Will meet with Simington with other groups

C. Mullen bill

1. [Lowering Broadband Costs for Consumers Act of 2025](#)
  - a) Member/JW: Expanding base and fund expansion, vs annual appropriations
  - b) Member/JW: Ed Markey asked Trusty about support of USF
  - c) JW/KC/members; Democrats (often) strongly in support of USF, so topic worthy of collaboration
  - d) KC – full list of meetings will come out of this collaboration series
  - e) Member: wants Mullen’s legislative history re: USF, this will eventually be researched in particular by JW – JW mentions Mullen is a relatively recent legislator though
  - f) Member: overbuilding rhetoric claims clashes with nonprofit and corporate/company cable and telecoms constructions – ex parte corporate issues – another member discusses overbuilding in urban vs satellite and RHC problems (because satellite is not RHC quality, at least typically)
    - (1) JW mentions the legal structure for USF must/should be tech neutral, technically
      - (a) Member mentions further affordability issues regarding RHC, however, especially if involving Republican funding
      - (b) Member – USF tech neutrality reforms are major innovations/changes/shifts, and disaster conversations need to occur (worst scenarios, like natural disasters or cuts); Starlink capacity issues also need to be discussed
      - (c) Member: USF more than hotspots/CRA – too much of a narrowed issue?

*SHLB’s next USF Congressional policy group call will reconvene on June 8, 2025 at 2:00 pm ET.*