



SHLB Coalition USF Congressional Policy Meeting Notes

7.8.25

Action Items from call:

- SHLB will be looking out for the Senate USF working group's next round of requests for comments regarding USF reform. If you have any ideas about USF reform that you want to discuss with Joey and Kristen beforehand, please reach out.

I. Welcome SHLB's New Hires!

- A. [Henery Wyand](#), Operations Assistant & Events Coordinator
- B. [Elle Thompson](#), Member Engagement & Program Coordinator

II. SCOTUS USF Decision

- A. Court's [decision](#)
 - 1. It went well for USF!
 - 2. The decision could have gone various ways. We received the outcome we wanted. Justice Kagan wrote a powerful opinion.
 - 3. Important that Justices Kavanaugh, Roberts, and Barrett signed on without any dissent
- B. ICYMI: SHLB [webinar](#) with Jason Neal and Andrew J. Schwartzman
 - 1. We had a great 45 minute discussion about the court case, the concurrences, the dissent, etc.

III. Senate USF Working Group

- A. The Senate working group previously asked for comments in 2023 (Those questions can be found here: <https://www.lujan.senate.gov/usf/>)
 - 1. The working group prepared a draft working document, but nothing was ever published for public viewing.
- B. A new public comment round is expected soon.
 - 1. We expect them to do a similar process again.
 - 2. Senator Deb Fisher is now the Republican Senate lead of the working group.

3. We are hoping that sometime this summer, the working group will release their questions and SHLB will review and work through each question to decide what to submit.
 - a) We will likely talk about E-Rate, Rural Health Care, contribution reform, affordability, and other streamlining/reforms that can be done to the USF and its programs.
 - b) It is unclear when the comments will be due, predicting late summer / early fall.
 - c) Once we get a sense of the questions and timeline, we encourage folks to be engaged within these policy calls as that is the best way for us to receive feedback.
4. Regarding overall timeline, it's hard to tell if and when any movement would happen
 - a) They could request stakeholder feedback meetings, etc.
- C. SHLB's previous [comments](#); we need to discuss what it is that we need to update.
 1. This will serve as the foundation as we begin to craft our response for this round
 2. [Blog post](#) about NDIA's Comments
 3. We are open to have any conversation with any other orgs thinking about submitting comments.
- D. Questions
 1. —: Do you think that there will be other public interest group discussions (outside of just SHLB member discussions)?
 - a) JW: It is unclear right now where groups stand and if they want to commit. If we can create more alliances (especially about maintaining the E-Rate and RHC programs) that would be better for us.
 2. -: Do we think that beyond this Working Group that we will see much movement in Congress?
 - a) JW: I think it is likely that the Working Group will publicly release a draft working document/proposal. But there will likely be pushback. For example, Senator Cruz would rather subject USF to appropriations.
 - b) -: We need to be active in this conversation regardless of whether this passes Congress during this term.
 - c) Whatever the working group produces will be the basis for any future discussion/movement on these issues

3. -: Do you think anyone in the working group will consider cybersecurity needs (funded by USF)? To discuss communications networks, we need to discuss security for those networks.
 - a) JW: This should be something that we put in our proposal
 - b) -: The ultimate goal is for a more expansive E-Rate that can fund more.
 - c) KC: SHLB did discuss funding cybersecurity under E-Rate in our previous comments. We need to update that proposal given the FCC's movement on the Cybersecurity Pilot Program.

IV. AnchorNets

- A. [Registration](#) is open!
 1. We are planning panels on topics like contribution reform, program streamlining, affordability, etc.

V. FCC Commission

- A. FCC has 3 Commissioners, so there's now a quorum. Unsure if there will be another Democrat appointed during this administration
- B. The next commission meeting is July 24th
 1. [Schedule](#)
 2. They will be discussing various issues, including pole attachments, which has been a long time coming.

SHLB's next USF Congressional policy group call will reconvene on August 12, 2025 at 2:00 pm ET.

Chat

14:01:09 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

Welcome SHLB's New Hires!

Henery Wyand, Operations Assistant & Events Coordinator

Elle Thompson, Member Engagement & Program Coordinator

SCOTUS USF Decision

Court's decision

ICYMI: SHLB webinar with Jason Neal and Andrew J. Schwartzman

Senate USF Working Group

Pending new public comment round

SHLB's previous comments; what do we need to update?

AnchorNetsRegistration open!

14:01:44 -:

You did miss out Joey! We had a blast :)

14:03:39 -:

Welcome Henery and Elle!

14:03:51 -:

Welcome Henery and Elle!

14:04:16 -:

Welcome, Henery and Elle!!

14:04:22 -:

Reacted to "Welcome, Henery and ..." with ❤️

14:04:46 -:

Welcome to the team / family!

14:05:11 -:

ICYMI: SHLB webinar with Jason Neal and Andrew J. Schwartzman. It should be posted to the website soon!

14:09:22 -:

Missed the webinar link as I joined late Sorry. Can you send it again.

14:09:48 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

Replying to "Missed the webinar I..."

It will be posted here: <https://www.shlb.org/webinars>

14:10:04 -:

Joey called it ahead of time 6-3. I heard it.

14:10:15 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

<https://www.lujan.senate.gov/usf/>

14:10:29 -:

Reacted to "Joey called it ahead..." with ❤️

14:10:45 -:

Thanks . I will take Joey's advice when I buy my lottery ticket :)

14:11:01 -:

Reacted to "Thanks . I will take..." with 😊

14:11:28 -:

Reacted to "Thanks . I will take..." with 😊

14:13:12 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

Relaunch of the working group:

<https://www.lujan.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/lujan-fischer-announce-bipartisan-bicameral-universal-service-fund-working-group/>

14:13:52 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

At the bottom of ^ page it states: Note: In the coming weeks, a USF Working Group request for comment portal will be open on Senator Fischer's website to allow for the submission of updated comments regarding the future outlook of the USF in the near and long terms.

14:18:27 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

SHLB's Delete Delete Comments (E-Rate and RHC specific):

https://assets.noviams.com/novi-file-uploads/shlbc/SHLB_Delete_PN_Comments_4-11-25.pdf

14:19:03 From to Everyone:

Court Case

14:19:08 -:

Reacted to "Court Case" with ❤️

14:19:22 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

Did any other organizations on this call participate in the working group comment cycle previously?

14:19:36 -:

The Seattle Public Library did not

14:19:47 -:

Sounds familiar, we did not provide any comments at the time.

14:21:03 -:

Any updates on FCC commissioners?

14:21:20 From Joey Wender to Everyone:

happy to talk commissioners...after usf working group convo

14:22:40 -:

Here is a blog post about NDIA's comments

<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/blog/ndias-roadmap-to-digital-inclusion-shaping-the-future-of-usf/>

14:22:48 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

Reacted to "Here is a blog post ..." with 👍

14:29:27 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

<https://www.fcc.gov/July2025>

14:30:21 -:

Thank you

14:30:30 -:

Reacted to "Joey called it ahead..." with ❤️

14:30:41 -:

Reacted to "Thanks . I will take..." with 😏

14:32:19 -:

Allies are excellent! Much better for everyone overall.

14:32:27 -:

Reacted to "Allies are excellent..." with 🏆

14:32:45 -:

Thanks for the updates. Have to jump to another call.

14:33:07 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

Reacted to "Allies are excellent..." with 🏆

14:38:54 From Kristen Corra, SHLB to Everyone:

We did discuss funding cyber under E-Rate in our previous comments

14:41:12 -:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts!