



SHLB Coalition USF Congressional Policy Meeting Notes

6.10.25

Action Items from call:

- Pending movement on FCC Commissioner nominations (Trusty, Gavin Wax?). Should SHLB weigh in on future FCC nominations?
- SHLB to meet with Carr's staff to discuss the importance of E-Rate and Rural Health Care program

I. FCC advocacy

A. Simington meeting

1. SHLB met with Commissioner Simington's staff a few weeks ago - they said the Commissioner was not interested in contribution reform concerning E-Rate
2. Lots of unknowns about who will replace him

B. Gavin Wax nod to take Simington's seat?

1. "DOGE" article -
<https://dailycaller.com/2025/05/09/opinion-its-time-to-doge-the-fcc-nathan-simington-and-gavin-wax/>
2. Should SHLB weigh in on FCC nominations?

C. Chairman Carr

1. What has he said about USF?
 - a) Has been vocal about big tech and said that section 230 should be enforced
 - b) He thinks the contribution factor is a problem, but has not recently offered solutions (i.e. assessing edge, slashing programs, etc.)
 - c) He associated himself with Musk and Trump, but now where does he stand?
2. SHLB will meet with Carr's staff to discuss the importance of E-Rate and Rural Health Care programs

D. Trusty nomination

1. Speculation at this point as to whether her nomination would be fast-tracked given Simington's departure
2. Would Democrats provide any agreements? Burn up floor time?
3. There are 2.5 weeks left of legislating before July

II. Hill advocacy

- A. SHLB has met with a handful of Republicans who have schools and libraries that have applied for hotspot funding in their district
 1. Republicans are questioning why Cruz is opposing the hotspot lending program
 2. Waiting for it to come to a vote on the House floor - our advocacy continues

III. Post USF court case decision

- A. We are in wait and see mode on the USF court decision
- B. Anna Gomez and Trusty are pro-USF; Carr hasn't said anything about slashing USF programs

IV. USF Contribution Reform

- A. Questions and comments:
 1. -: From a conversation with an ISP - they took the position that contribution needed to be reformed, but only Congress can do it (not the Commission)
- B. J. Rosenworcel suggested that the FCC has the authority to assess fee on BIAS. She said that the FCC does not have the authority to assess a fee on edge providers.
 1. Could Carr challenge that?
 2. A lot of people subscribe to Rosenworcel's interpretation
- C. It also seems clear that nobody wants to move forward on reform. Last year, Rosenworcel put out a statement regarding the risk of raising fees on consumer bills (if FCC assessed BIAS)
- D. After the court case, SHLB will need to develop its position on contribution reform and what that looks like
 1. What is the impact of a fee on BIAS?
 2. What does it mean to assess a fee on edge?
 3. Is it possible to help with the contribution factor with revenue that comes from spectrum auctions?

- a) The problem is that it's a one time infusion of funding. What does Congress do later?

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

Chat

14:09:08 From - to Everyone:
It happens. :)

14:10:25 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:
FCC advocacy
Simington meeting
Gavin Wax nod
Chairman Carr
Hill advocacy
Post USF court case decision

14:11:01 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:
Going off camera to see if that helps my lag time

14:13:37 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:
Here's the DOGE article:
<https://dailycaller.com/2025/05/09/opinion-its-time-to-doge-the-fcc-nathan-simington-and-gavin-wax/>

14:18:52 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:
This webpage had a spreadsheet you can download showing hotspot applicant information: <https://www.shlb.org/hotspot-program>

14:19:46 From - to Everyone:
eating Arkansas strawberries!

14:19:56 From - to Everyone:
My allergies are killing me.

14:20:12 From - to Everyone:
sorry, traveling and mic not working...

14:20:15 From - to Everyone:
Earing lunch

14:21:47 From - to Everyone:

RE: E-Rate wi-fi hotspot issue. Today State Library E-Rate coordinators had their monthly update conf. call with USAC. In regard to no funding decisions yet on any of the wi-fi hotspot applications, I asked USAC staff if the FCC has directed them to hold the hotspot applications pending outcome of the CRA in the House. USAC said they could not provide any details on this but that these applications are "in the que". (And the check is in the mail....) You can draw your own conclusions.

14:22:29 From - to Everyone:

the RHC Connected Care Pilot was from Carr

14:22:46 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:

Replying to "the RHC Connected Care Pilot was from Carr":
That's right

14:29:40 From - to Everyone:

Are there any models on assessment / contribution from the state level that are favorable and which we could highlight?

14:34:36 From - to Everyone:

This is why "structural separation" between content and transport is still a good idea ...

14:35:40 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:

Replying to "Are there any models on assessment / contribution ...":
West Virginia has one I believe

14:35:49 From - to Everyone:

PISC is a key ally in the spectrum policy realm ...

14:37:09 From - to Everyone:

here is a resource for "data centers" and think of the associated fiber, power, water...

14:37:16 From - to Everyone:

{2EF8B7BA-F101-47E6-842F-C907D2297C8D}.png

14:38:48 From - to Everyone:

Sorry late - did we talk about FCC nomination(s)?

14:39:03 From - to Everyone:

Does SHLB have a shortlist on out hustling those that may want to address distribution before the contribution factor?

14:39:14 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:

<https://www.shlb.org/blogs/shlb-urges-ntia-to-protect-anchor-institution-flexibility>

14:39:54 From Kristen Corra to Everyone:

New BEAD Policy Notice

14:47:07 From - to Everyone:

Zoom links are always tricky. I am known to leave them out of calendar invites all the time. 😊

14:48:14 From Steve Corbató, Link Oregon to Everyone:

Finger crossed for SCOTUS