

Broadband Policy Update for The Quilt Winter Meeting

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E-rate Reform

- **Open Questions:**

- Network sharing/cost allocation (wireless? To the home? School-library partnerships? Health?)

- Now that the Cap is raised to \$3.9 B, will it be used? Will unused funds be rolled over to future years?

- With rate transparency, will the FCC enforce the Lowest Corresponding Price rule?

Net Neutrality Update

- Feb 26 decision to re-classify commercial broadband Internet access as common carriage.
- Specialized services, private networks not regulated.
- The FCC will forbear from enforcing most provisions of Title II, except the important ones.
- Congressional Republicans have drafted a bill to ban paid prioritization and strip FCC's authority over broadband. (almost no Democrats support)

Net Neutrality Theater

- “shadow FCC [at the White House] bullying the real FCC” (Sen. Thune)
- “Benghazi all over again” (Public Knowledge)
- Obama’s plan/Obama’s legacy?
- “If the FCC is not planning to regulate rates . . . They need to take the bullets out of the proverbial gun.” (NCTA Powell)
- “Fauxbearance” (FCC Commissioner O’Rielly)

Comcast/Time Warner Merger

- Does Title II mean the FCC can better regulate the merged company?
- Or, does Title II signal the increasing influence of consumer groups?
- New broadband definition: Comcast/TW would control 57% of all broadband connections.
- 70% or 30% chance? (Wall St. conflicting tea leaves)
- Two new opposition groups formed.

Municipal Broadband Preemption

- Feb. 26: FCC scheduled to pre-empt laws in North Carolina and Tennessee that restrict broadband expansion.
- Will not apply to state laws that ban municipal broadband.
- White House/NTIA continuing to support municipal broadband. White House “Summit” this summer?

SHLB Coalition Update

- SHLB Health-Broadband Working Group – let me know if you want to join.
- SHLB Annual Conference: May 20-22 in D.C.
- SHLB Regional Conference in San Jose in September?
- Anchor Institution Action Plan

Thank you

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