

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Consideration of)
Potential Changes in the Regulation of the)
Utah Universal Public Telecommunications) Docket No. 12-999-10
Service Support Fund, in Response to)
Recent Changes in the Federal Universal)
Service Fund Program)

AARP welcomes the opportunity to briefly comment on the draft report that the Division of Public Utilities submitted to the Public Service Commission on April 25, 2013. In the paragraph copied below from page 18 of the draft report, AARP suggests adding the highlighted words to accurately reflect our position. The new sentence on page 18 would now read “It suggested that carriers should be required to demonstrate that they genuinely need the subsidies to provide affordable service.”

From Page 18 of the draft report submitted by the Division of Public Utilities, highlighted words added to reflect AARP’s position.

Submitted Comments:

Limiting the amount of fund support was an option with conflicting viewpoints. AARP strongly indicated that UUSF should not become a “blank check” urging establishing accountability mechanisms for UUSF use. It suggested that carriers **should be required to demonstrate that they** genuinely need the subsidies to provide affordable service. Verizon was emphatic that support should be provided only in geographic areas where no unsubsidized competitor is already providing service. Verizon contends that wireless service, where available, should be treated as a comparable service for this purpose. In a multi-provider market, says Verizon, any area served by an unsubsidized provider should be assumed to be an area that can be served economically, i.e., where rates cover the cost of providing service.

Respectfully submitted, AARP



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