

*Sub Fischer*

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To require a report on the Universal Service Rural Health Care Program of the Federal Communications Commission.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 2644**

To reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mrs. FISCHER +

*Mr. Schatz  
Mr. Manchin  
Mr. Wicker  
Ms. Klobuchar  
Ms. Ayotte*

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REPORT ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE RURAL**  
3 **HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “funding  
5 year” has the meaning given the term in section 54.675(b)  
6 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
7 regulation.

8 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 270 days  
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission  
10 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees

1 a report that assesses the Universal Service Rural Health  
2 Care Program of the Commission.

3 (c) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-  
4 section (b) shall include—

5 (1) data on the amount of funding that the  
6 Universal Service Rural Health Care Program has  
7 distributed to health care providers in each State  
8 since the beginning of funding year 2013, broken  
9 down by the—

10 (A) Healthcare Connect Fund;

11 (B) Telecommunications Program; and

12 (C) Rural Health Care Pilot Program;

13 (2) data on the types of advanced telecommuni-  
14 cations and information services that each program  
15 described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of  
16 paragraph (1) has funded since the beginning of  
17 funding year 2013;

18 (3) data on the types of health care providers  
19 that each program described in subparagraphs (A),  
20 (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) has funded since the  
21 beginning of funding year 2013, broken down by  
22 each category listed in section 254(h)(7)(B) of the  
23 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
24 254(h)(7)(B));

1           (4) an assessment of the efficacy of the Tele-  
2           communications Program, including—

3                   (A) the number of health care providers  
4                   that the Commission estimates have transferred  
5                   from the Internet Access Program and the  
6                   Telecommunications Program to the Healthcare  
7                   Connect Fund since the beginning of funding  
8                   year 2013;

9                   (B) whether there is a continued need for  
10                  the Telecommunications Program; and

11                  (C) whether the Telecommunications Pro-  
12                  gram should be reformed or transitioned into  
13                  the Healthcare Connect Fund; and

14           (5) a summary of recommendations made by  
15           commenters in response to the notice of inquiry  
16           under subsection (d).

17           (d) NOTICE OF INQUIRY.—Not later than 180 days  
18           after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission  
19           shall issue a notice of inquiry evaluating whether the Uni-  
20           versal Service Rural Health Care Program is meeting the  
21           goals of section 254(h) of the Communications Act of  
22           1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)), including—

23                   (1) regulatory and legislative proposals;

24                   (2) an evaluation of whether the definition of  
25           the term “health care provider” under that section

1 needs to be updated to ensure that support is being  
2 used effectively to provide health care services to  
3 rural areas; and

4 (3) an evaluation of whether the advanced tele-  
5 communications and information services funded by  
6 the Program are sufficient to provide health care  
7 services to rural areas.