

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

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

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

4 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

5 (1) the term “Commission” means the Federal  
6 Communications Commission; and

7 (2) the term “funding year” has the meaning  
8 given the term in section 54.675(b) of title 47, Code  
9 of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

10 (b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 270 days  
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission

*Mr. Manchin  
Mr. Wicker  
MS. Klobuchar  
MS. Ayotte*

1 shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
2 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on En-  
3 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a re-  
4 port that assesses the Universal Service Rural Health  
5 Care Program of the Commission.

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

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

13 (A) Healthcare Connect Fund;

14 (B) Telecommunications Program; and

15 (C) Rural Health Care Pilot Program;

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

21 (3) data on the types of health care providers  
22 that each program described in subparagraphs (A),  
23 (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) has funded since the  
24 beginning of funding year 2013, broken down by  
25 each category listed in section 254(h)(7)(B) of the

1       Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.  
2       254(h)(7)(B));

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

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

11          (B) whether there is a continued need for  
12      the Telecommunications Program; and

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

16          (5) recommendations for additional reforms for  
17      the Universal Service Rural Health Care Program to  
18      ensure that the Program is meeting the goals of sec-  
19      tion 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
20      U.S.C. 254(h)), including—

21           (A) regulatory and legislative proposals;

22           (B) an evaluation of whether the definition  
23      of the term “health care provider” under that  
24      section needs to be updated to ensure that sup-

1 port is being used effectively to provide health  
2 care services to rural areas; and

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