

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120**

**2019 Rulemaking Regarding
Universal Service Regulations**

**Public Meeting September 19, 2019
3012600-LAW
Docket No. L-2019-3012600**

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration and disposition is a Proposed Rulemaking Order to revise the Commission's regulations on universal service programs. The existing regulations identify the filing schedule and required elements of a universal service plan, as well as the requirements for record maintenance, third party evaluation and program reporting.

The Order would have proposed the following revisions to our regulations:

- That utilities provide a method for customers to donate to a utility's hardship fund through e-billing by 2021.
- That utilities establish a universal service advisory committee to meet at least twice a year.
- That the scope of documents retained under the record maintenance provisions be expanded.

These proposed modifications are within our authority and jurisdiction and may have improved the implementation and effectiveness of universal service programs. Accordingly, I would have been inclined to vote to issue the Proposed Rulemaking Order for public comment.

The proposed Joint Motion directs staff to, among other things, prepare a Proposed Rulemaking Order which codifies all the provisions of the final CAP Policy Statement on today's Public Meeting agenda. As I stated on that matter, I believe that, at a minimum, the Commission should have issued the revisions to our Policy Statement for public comment before making a final decision. Additionally, I am not sure it is wise for all the elements of the Policy Statement to be codified in the form of a regulation. Therefore, I cannot support the Joint Motion.

Date: September 19, 2019


**JOHN F. COLEMAN, JR.
COMMISSIONER**