

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 200

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should not withhold universal service support payments.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 1997

Mr. DINGELL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. LOFGREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should not withhold universal service support payments.

1       *Resolved,*

2       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

3       The House of Representatives finds the following:

4               (1) Congress reaffirmed the importance of uni-  
5       versal service support for telecommunications serv-  
6       ices by passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

7               (2) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 re-  
8       quired the Federal Communications Commission to  
9       preserve and advance universal service based on the  
10      following principles:

1           (A) Quality services should be available at  
2 just, reasonable, and affordable rates.

3           (B) Access to advanced telecommuni-  
4 cations and information services should be pro-  
5 vided in all regions of the Nation.

6           (C) Consumers in all regions of the Na-  
7 tion, including low-income consumers and those  
8 in rural, insular, and high-cost areas, should  
9 have access to telecommunications and informa-  
10 tion services, including interexchange services  
11 and advanced telecommunications and informa-  
12 tion services, that are reasonable comparable to  
13 those services provided in urban areas and that  
14 are available at rates that are reasonably com-  
15 parable to rates charged for similar services.

16          (D) All providers of telecommunications  
17 services should make an equitable and non-  
18 discriminatory contribution to the preservation  
19 and advancement of universal service.

20          (E) There should be specific, predictable,  
21 and sufficient Federal and State mechanisms to  
22 preserve and advance universal service.

23          (F) Elementary and secondary schools and  
24 classrooms, health care providers, and libraries

1           should have access to advanced telecommuni-  
2           cations services.

3           (3) Federal and State universal conditions are  
4           administered by an independent, non-Federal entity  
5           and are not deposited into the Federal Treasury and  
6           therefore not available for Federal appropriations.

7           (4) The committee of conference on H.R. 2015,  
8           the budget reconciliation bill, is considering propos-  
9           als that would withhold Federal and State universal  
10          service funds in the year 2002.

11          (5) The withholding of billions of dollars of uni-  
12          versal service support payments will mean significant  
13          rate increases in rural and high-cost areas and will  
14          deny qualifying schools, libraries, and rural health  
15          facilities discounts directed under the Telecommuni-  
16          cations Act of 1996.

17 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

18          It is the sense of the House of Representatives that  
19          the committee of conference on the bill H.R. 2015 should  
20          not manipulate, modify, or impair universal service sup-  
21          port as a means to achieve a balanced Federal budget or  
22          achieve Federal budget savings.

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