

060677-TL

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

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ORIGINAL

DATE: October 25, 2006

TO: Kay B. Flynn, Chief of Records, Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services

FROM: Roberta S. Bass, Assistant to Chairman Edgar *Rob*

RE: Re: Letter from Representative Juan C. Zapata

Please place the enclosed letter in Docket No. 060677-TL. If you have any questions about this request, please call me.

cc: Cayce Hinton
 Manuel Arisso
 William Garner
 Jeremy Susac

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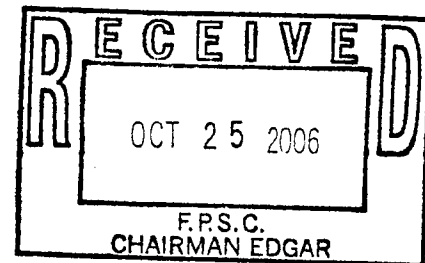
Florida House of Representatives

Representative Juan C. Zapata

District 119

October 23, 2006

Lisa Polak Edgar
Chairman, Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Dear Chairman Edgar:

On October 11, 2006, the Office of Public Counsel and the AARP filed a petition in docket No. 060688 -TL which, if granted, would order local exchange telecommunications companies in Florida to implement practices and procedures with the Department of Children and Families to automatically enroll eligible customers in the Lifeline telephone program. As State Representative of House District 119 and Chairman of the Florida Hispanic Legislative Caucus, I urge the Commission to grant the petition as filed.

The percentage of eligible Floridians participating in the Linkup/Lifeline telephone program is 12.4% according to the Commission's own 2005 report. That is a profoundly disappointing 'take rate' which I believe can be attributed only to the lack of enthusiasm for the program either by the Commission, the telephone companies over which the commission has Lifeline authority, or most likely, both.

There are two areas of special concern to me: first, that deserving and eligible Floridians, because of the lack of vigorous enforcement, are deprived of services for which more fortunate Floridians have paid; and, second, that upwards of thirty million dollars paid into the Universal Service Fund will leave the state never to return, simply because the Linkup and Lifeline programs have essentially been permitted to fail.

Again, I urge your favorable consideration of the referenced petition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan C. Zapata".

Juan C. Zapata
State Representative
House District 119