

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
US Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write to request that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) review the practical and legal effects of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) plan to transfer the Universal Service Fund (USF) from the private bank where it has been held to the U.S. Treasury.

Advancing universal service is one of the core tenants of the FCC's mission, and any transfer should only follow close review and rigorous oversight. USF provides important support for goals such as building out broadband on rural and tribal lands, helping struggling families connect to phone and internet service, supporting rural health care, and connecting schools and libraries. We therefore agree with previous GAO recommendations that the FCC fully consider and vet any arrangement regarding the disposition of the USF before taking such action.

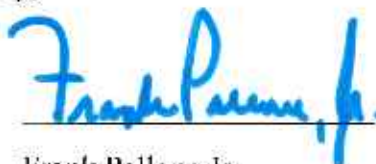
We are concerned that the FCC seems poised to transfer the entire fund without having run a public process to assess the consequences of its action. To help Congress and the public better understand this transfer we ask GAO to review the following issues:

- (1) What controls does the FCC have in place, if any, to ensure the USF is securely deposited in the Treasury?
- (2) What controls does FCC have in place, if any, to ensure that depositing the USF in the Treasury will not disrupt programs supported by the USF?
- (3) What analysis has the FCC done, if any, regarding what new practical or legal obligations will be placed on the USF if it is transferred to the Treasury?
- (4) What controls, if any, has the FCC put in place to ensure any new practical or legal obligations placed on the USF will not impede its statutory responsibility to promote universal service?
- (5) What controls, if any, has the FCC put in place to make sure beneficiaries of the program are not harmed as a result of this transfer?



Peter Welch
Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce