July 21, 2004

The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name),

EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. The current membership comprises nearly 1,900 colleges, universities, and education organizations, including more than 180 corporations and more than 13,000 active member representatives such as (insert two schools from their home state and the member representative from each)

EDUCAUSE, along with 12 other higher education associations, recently submitted comments to the FCC in the matter of the Department of Justice, FBI and DEA joint petition for rulemaking regarding the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) (RM-10865). We are encouraged that the Senate Commerce Committee is also addressing this important issue as it considers Senator Sununu’s bill S. 2281, the VoIP Regulatory Freedom Act of 2004. On July 21, Senator McCain introduced an amendment to Section 4c of S. 2281 that is consistent with the goals of our FCC comments. CALEA is a complex issue that would have a severe impact on our campuses if it is extended to Internet communications. Senator McCain’s amendment calls for full cooperation with law enforcement as currently provided by law while two comprehensive reports are prepared by the GAO and the FCC to help answer the myriad questions surrounding this issue. As Internet service providers, we particularly welcome the cost-benefit analysis of extending CALEA compliance to our industry. We encourage you to vote for the McCain amendment to S. 2281.

Senator Sununu’s bill provides a strong foundation on which the FCC can build an efficient, effective and forward-looking regulatory framework for modern telecommunications. Senator McCain’s amendment provides a judicious method for resolving one of the most difficult issues within the bill, the extension of CALEA compliance to the Internet.

Sincerely,

Brian Hawkins
President
EDUCAUSE