

August 31,2013

Today the California Senate Appropriations Committee voted to keep AB 1407 in suspense, which means that this bill will not be passed this year.

This means that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will be able to complete their process of adopting the rules and guidelines for expanding the LifeLine program to cover wireless service - and take into account the desires of hundreds of community members who testified at public hearings statewide, including here in Eureka on July 17, 2013. coverage of the Eureka hearing is online -

<http://accesshumboldt.net/site/broadband-policy-roundtable-and-lifeline-hearing-programs-online>

Earlier this year Access Humboldt joined a coalition of consumer advocates and public interest groups opposing AB 1407 which was proposed by telecom industry interests and threatened the sustainability of the State's Lifeline program.

Access Humboldt executive director Sean McLaughlin said, "through concerted statewide efforts a thoughtful coalition of consumer advocates and public interest groups managed to delay this bill which would have converted Lifeline from a public benefit program for low income people into a corporate welfare program for giant telecommunications providers."

Here is a press release from Access Humboldt on August 14, 2013:

Lifeline program threatened by proposed State legislation AB1407

<http://accesshumboldt.net/site/lifeline-program-threatened-proposed-state-legislation-ab1407>

And Access Humboldt's testimony on AB 1407 is posted online here: <http://accesshumboldt.net/site/files/AB1407-LifelineSenApprops.doc.pdf>

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