

BLOOD CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 27, 2025

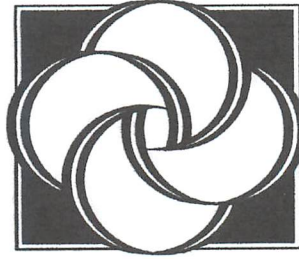
10 am – 12 pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89605142802?pwd=Pd3ArgWRklRdFrbQsBudBHqqOxiRVh.1>

**Dial 1 (669) 444 9171
Meeting ID: 896 0514 2802
Passcode: 662627**

AGENDA



BLOOD CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA

Board Meeting

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Monday, January 27, 2025

10 am – 12n

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Meeting ID: 896 0514 2802

Passcode: 662627

Roll Call

Additions to Agenda

Thanks to outgoing board members

Motion to elect incoming board members – Susan Noone, Past President

Vote: Candidates for Board Officers for 2025-2026

President – Kate Witthaus

President-elect – Jonathan Bautista

Secretary-Treasurer – Melissa Stuckey

At Large Member (s) – Susan Noone

Representatives:

CLTAC BCC representative – Anthony Salazar

MTAC Chair – TBD

AABB Standards Chair – Susan Noone

AABB BCC representative – Tho Pham, MD

President's Report – Kate Witthaus

Review and update Strategic Plan

Review and confirm proposed 2025 meeting calendar

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Doug Morton

Financials – YTD

Proposed budget for 2025

October board minutes
December Exec meeting minutes

Medical Technical Advisory Committee – TBD
Recruitment of MTAC Chair (s) – TBD

Legislation Committee

Bylaws – Legislation Committee – Section 9 - page 9 – 10
Recruitment of Committee Members

Legislative Issues for 2025 legislative session

Increase donor pool – align with other non-profits/ethnic
groups/organizations

Findings/Recommendations suggested in ABC newsletter article
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/vox.13731>

2025 ABC Advocacy Agenda – TBD by ABC Council of States

Review SB 22 (Laird) – fact sheet and bill language

Old Business

CARB review/discussion: See strategic Plan #8
Possible approaches to funding for bloodmobiles
Grant writing
Determine specifics of demographics
Advocacy on regulations
Purchasing group – guarantee sales of bloodmobiles
Possible federal funding
[CalEPA: Loans and Grants | CalEPA](#) – sent for review

Review D&O Insurance – renew April 1, 2025

Discuss October in person board meeting
Timing to not conflict with AABB
Plan Strategic Planning Session

Adjournment

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BCC 2025 Strategic Planning Document

ADVOCACY

Initiative	Current Status	Next Steps
1. Seek legislative change when appropriate for SB 1475		<i>1st quarter - every center survey telehealth RN usage End of 3rd quarter – review data for possible legislation to rescind 2028 sunset</i>
2. Explore elimination of CLS requirement in blood centers		<i>Presently, no definitive information on implementation of MLT to CLS bridge program</i>
3. Eliminate Paul Gann Act	Political climate not conducive to action on Gann brochure at this time.	Revisit issue in one year – discuss 2025
4. Support broad based blood bank related tax exemptions	<i>OTA findings on Haemonetics not supportive of our approach</i>	<i>Budget deficits not conducive to sales tax exemptions at this time</i>

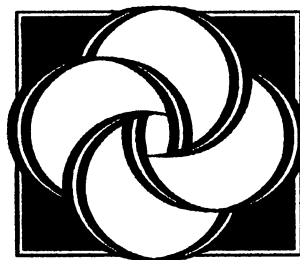
5. Revisit BCC support for specific exemptions re: required blood donor screening	<i>Budget deficit not conducive</i>	Identify testing materials for eligible for tax exemptions
6. Increase donor pool - Participate in proactive partnership campaign with State to promote blood donations	Determine which groups to align with, i.e. Cal NonProfits, etc.	<p>Reach out to SG, LGBTQ groups; review Medi-cal requirements for directed donations</p> <p>Align with K-12 programs related to health issues – Body Interact, Health Science programs, etc.</p> <p>See ABC web site for school program</p> <p><i>Discuss approaches at Oct board mtg – Equality CA, LA AIDS Project, and Asian groups</i></p>
7. See through to successful end a tax deduction for tax-paying organizations hosting blood drives	2022- 2024: Determine success in other states – organizational or individual – <i>none passed (10 bills)</i>	Review possible legislation introduced in 2025-27

7.1 Identify & secure author for legislation <i>when feasible</i>	AB 1025 (Bates & Cooper) - Author pulled bill 4/29/22 based on concerns with privacy issues and potential coercion by employer	<i>Reframe language used in AB 1025 to address identified issues</i>
8. CARB Issues – BIT and blood mobile grants	Engage fleet managers in discussion <i>Reached out to ABC re: any federal funding – no response</i>	Determine issues to be addressed; issues vary by center Listing of issues to be developed for center survey -TDL, non-TDL, young & diverse donors collected, number of mobiles - volume purchases
9. 2025 Legislation	Engage with ABC Council of States regarding state legislation on blood issues impacting blood supply	Continue to support ABC advocacy
Revised January, April, May, June, July, October – <i>italics</i>		

**Proposed 2025 Meeting Calendar – Exec Committee and Board
Dates and Time**

Executive Meetings - monthly – 4th Thursday	Board meetings – quarterly – 4th Monday of designated month
	Monday, January 27th @ 10 am - Zoom
February 27 th – 9 am	
March 27 th @ 9 am ABC annual meeting – March 10-12, 2025 in DC	
	Monday, April 28th @ 10 am - Zoom
May 22 nd – 9 am	
June 26 th – 9 am	
	Monday, July 28th @ 10 am – Zoom
August 28 th – 9 am	
September 25 th – 9 am	
	Monday, October 27th @ 10 am - Zoom or In person AABB annual meeting - Oct 25-28, 2025 in San Diego, CA
November 27 th – Thanksgiving – change date and time	
December 25 th - change	

Secretary/Treasurer Report



BLOOD CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA
Board Meeting
MINUTES
Monday, October 28, 2024

Called to order at 10:02 am by President-elect Kate Witthaus

Roll Call

Kate Witthaus Susan Noone Doug Morton Scott Miller Jeanette Ishii Harpreet Sandhu
Jonathan Bautista Elaine Ramsey Melissa Stuckey Jessica Mancilla

Others Present

Lydia Bourne, Staff

Welcome new Directors:

Jeanette Ishii, Interim President/CEO – Central California Blood Center

Scott Miller, President/CEO – Lifestream

President – Elect Report – Kate Witthaus

Review and update Strategic Plan – additions and deletions will be made to the
Strategic Plan – all changes in italics

Review draft survey document – Telehealth RN status

Not reviewed

Discussion on making legislative changes will include ARC

Maintain discussions with LFS relating to annual reports and possible
legislative changes relating to SB 1475; determine key LFS personnel

Presentations: posed on web site

VCFD Whole Blood Program – Edward Campana

Firefighter-Paramedic II

Ventura County Fire Department

Key Points:

Concepts on trauma care grew out of experiences during the Afghanistan and
Iran conflicts

Randi Schaefer, prominent in the prehospital blood transfusion initiative
coalition

Six counties are involved in the pilot project which will start January 2025

Program abased on similar program in San Antonio, Texas

Will be used on 4 rescue ambulances and helicopters

Reimbursement issues to be addressed at the federal level

Only will be implemented on certain patients
At the end of the pilot project period – 2 years – if successful legislation
will be introduced to address the scope of practice issues

PAGA 2024 – What the Reforms Mean and Preventive Measures

Tom Manzo, Founder & President – CABIA

Organization developed to aid employers in assuring they meet the
Labor code requirements through the development and addition to
existing employee policies

Brief comments relating to the newly signed legislation on PAGA

Attendees shared experiences with PAGA

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Doug Morton

Financials:

Update – accounts transferred to City National Bank

Increased interest for MMA account

Approved with first and second – Susan and Jonathan

July board minutes and Exec meeting minutes – August & October

Approved first and second by Kate and Jonathan

Medical Technical Advisory Committee Report - Co-Chairs Pandey & Fridey

Update:

Email from Suchi – one possible candidate for Chair but not yet confirmed

Will set up meeting on or about November 15th

Legislation – Lydia Bourne

Legislative issues:

AB 2300 (Wilson) – DEHP – Chapter 562 (9/25/2024)

Minimum wage increase for health workers – 10/16/2024

implementation – no direct effect on blood centers

2024 ballot initiatives – 10 approved

Prop 32 – minimum wage increase - \$18/hr. by 2026

https://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_32,_%2418_Minimum_Wage_Initiative_%282024%29

SB 957 (Weiner) – Data Collection for LGTBQ – Chapter 868 (9/28/2024)

Mandate does not affect blood centers

Pennsylvania – SB 1301 – Medical Devices – Referred to Health & Human

Services Committee on August 20th – no action since referral to HHS

Committee

Legislative Issues for 2025 legislative session

Increase donor pool – align with other non-profits/ethnic
groups/organizations

Findings/Recommendations suggested in ABC newsletter article

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/vox.13731>

Reach out to Equality California, Asian Pacific Islanders group
and HIV Project Los Angeles – possible invitation to speak
at our board meeting in January

Candidates for Board Officers for 2025-2026

President – Kate Witthaus
President-elect – Jonathan Bautista
Secretary-Treasurer – TBD
At Large Member (s) – Susan Noone

Representatives:

CLTAC BCC representative – Anthony Salazar
MTAC Chair – TBD
AABB Standards Chair – Susan Noone
AABB BCC representative – Tho Pham, MD

Once all candidates are confirmed will send via email for vote

Review proposed 2025 meeting calendar

Will confirm dates for ABC annual meeting to align with our March
meeting

Adjournment @ 12:25pm

BLOOD CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE via ZOOM
MINUTES**

Thursday, December 19, 2024 @ 9am

Called to order by Incoming President Kate Witthaus @ 9:03 am

Roll Call

Kate Witthaus Susan Noone Doug Morton Jonathan Bautista

President's Report – President-elect Witthaus

Board candidates – for vote at January board meeting:

President – Kate Witthaus

President-elect – Jonathan Bautista

Secretary-Treasurer – Melissa Stuckey

At Large Member – Susan Noone

BCC Representatives:

CLTAC BCC representative – Anthony Salazar

MTAC – will discuss approach to candidate recruitment at
January board meeting

AABB BCC representative – Tho Pham, AABB will send
confirmation letter in 2025

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Doug Morton

Financials – YTD – will send November report later

Resolution sent to City National Bank to authorize signatories on
BCC financial documents

October Executive Minutes – first and second motion – Susan &

Jonathan - Approval with name correction – Gordon to Morton

October 28th Board minutes – first and second motion - Jonathan and
Susan - Accepted

**Medical Technical Advisory Committee Report - Co-Chairs Pandey &
Frider**

Possible Co-Chair candidates – see comment above

Meeting held 11/22/2024

Legislation Committee

Legislature met on Dec 2nd to elect 2025-2026 leadership:

Speaker and Pro Tem – Rivas and McGuire

Minority leaders – Gallagher and Jones

Reconvene January 6, 2025 - official start of 2025 legislative session

SB 22 (Laird) Gift certificates – sent for review
Governor declares a bird flu state of emergency on 12/19

Old Business

Telehealth RN survey – review updated draft

To compile data to address sunset - Jan 1, 2028 – no action

Review and set dates and times for 2025 committee meetings

Board meetings – quarterly, suggest 4th Monday of
designated month

Set for board approval in January

Board meeting Monday, January 27th via Zoom

Adjournment @ 9:29 am

Blood Centers of California - Budget 2025
Budget/Actuals

	2024 Budget	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget
INCOME			
Member Dues	21,486	21,487.00	22,000.00
Interest Income	50	2,191.51	2,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	21,486	23,678.51	24,500.00
EXPENSES			
Legislative/Secretarial Expenses			
Bourne Monthly admin fees (\$700 per month)	7,200	7,200.00	8,400.00
Lobbying expenses	30,000	0.00	30,000.00
Bourne expenses	1,500	1,020.00	1,500.00
Lobbying misc expenses	1,000	0.00	1,000.00
Other member expenses for lobbying	1,000	0.00	1,000.00
Total Legislative/Secretarial Expense	40,700	8,220.00	41,900.00
Meeting Expenses			
Board Meetings (2 in person)	3,000	0.00	6,000.00
Other Meetings	2,000	0.00	2,000.00
Lodging Reimbursement for Board Meeting	5,000	0.00	5,000.00
Conference Calls Phone Expense, Board meeting	1,000	0.00	1,000.00
Total Meeting Expense	11,000	0.00	14,000.00
Operating and Accounting Expenses			
Bank Fee	0	65.00	100.00
Compilation/Audit Fee	2,000	0.00	2,000.00
Tax Prep and Taxes	6,000	0.00	6,000.00
D & O Insurance	2,000	1,231.00	2,000.00
Web Hosting	600	84.88	600.00
PO Box, Misc. Exp	300	232.00	300.00
Total Misc. Operating Expense	10,900	1,612.88	11,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	62,600	9,832.88	66,900.00
NET GAIN	-41,114	13,845.63	-42,400.00

Blood Centers of California - Composite Report 2024

Budget/Actuals

	Budget	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total YTD
INCOME														
Member Dues	21,486	0.00	0.00	9,930.00	9,858.00	1,701.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,487.00
Interest Income	50	87.86	82.26	88.03	85.36	88.29	80.14	5.05	5.04	168.37	505.00	473.82	524.29	2,191.51
TOTAL INCOME	21,486	87.86	82.26	10,018.03	9,941.36	1,789.29	80.14	5.05	5.04	168.37	505.00	473.82		23,184.22
EXPENSES														
Legislative/Secretarial Expenses														
Bourne Monthly admin fees (\$600 per month)	7,200	600.00	0.00	1,200.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	7,200.00
Lobbying expenses	30,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bourne expenses	1,500	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,020.00
Lobbying misc expenses	1,000													0.00
Other member expenses for lobbying	1,000													0.00
Total Legislative/Secretarial Expense	40,700	620.00	0.00	1,200.00	600.00	0.00	1,600.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	600.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	8,220.00
Meeting Expenses														
Board 3-2023	3,000													0.00
Board 9-2023	3,000													0.00
Other Meetings	2,000													0.00
Lodging Reimbursement for Board Meeting	5,000													0.00
Conference Calls Phone Expense, Board meeting	1,000													0.00
Total Meeting Expense	14,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating and Accounting Expenses														
Bank Fee	0									55.00		5.00	5.00	65.00
Compilation/Audit Fee	2,000													0.00
Tax Prep and Taxes	6,000													0.00
D & O Insurance	2,000				1,231.00									1,231.00
Web Hosting	600											84.88		84.88
PO Box, Misc. Exp	300											232.00		232.00
Total Misc. Operating Expense	10,900	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,231.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.00	0.00	321.88	5.00	1,612.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	65,600	620.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,831.00	0.00	1,600.00	0.00	1,200.00	55.00	600.00	1,521.88	1,205.00	9,832.88
NET GAIN	-44,114	-532.14	82.26	8,818.03	8,110.36	1,789.29	-1,519.86	5.05	-1,194.96	111.37	-95.00	-1,048.06	-1,205.00	13,321.34

LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY ISSUES

Section 9 - LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The Legislation Committee shall consist of three or more Founding or Primary Members, two of whom are Directors, plus the Past President, who is a permanent member of the Committee. The Chair, who is appointed by the President, shall be a Director. Associate Members and MTAC Committee members are also eligible to participate. The committee shall review legislation, policy statements and regulatory proposals for their potential impact on California's blood supply and the members of this Corporation. The Committee oversees the legislative and regulatory matters of this Corporation.

The legislative Committee reviews, takes positions, or requests amendments that impact the functioning and administration of the member centers. Input is sought from MTAC and national organizations on pertinent issues.

The legislative Committee may take a position on a legislative issue if:

- the legislative issues are in keeping with the established goals and objectives to be reviewed each legislative session
- the position taken is consistent with approved goals and objectives (policies) and approved bill positions
- the positions on legislation shall be approved by the Board via email vote

California State Senate

SENATOR
JOHN LAIRD

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



Senate Bill 22 – Gift Certificate Cash Redemption

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 22 puts more cash back in the hands of consumers by increasing the maximum cash back amount redeemable from a gift certificate (gift card).

BACKGROUND

In 2008, Senate Bill 250 (Corbett, Chapter 640, Statutes of 2007) established a consumer's right to redeem certain gift certificates for its cash value if the value is less than \$10. This ensures consumers can utilize the full gifted value of a certificate, and that they are not left with small, unusable amounts after making a purchase. 16 years have passed since the state enacted this law, and the cost of living has only gone up, making an increase long overdue.

The gift card industry is currently valued at \$899.3 billion, with expectations of skyrocketing to \$2.3 trillion by 2030. There is an estimated \$21 billion of unspent money stored on gift cards, according to a [2023 report by Credit Summit](#). 47% of Americans have unused gift cards, a loss only to the cardholder and the card giver.

[A recent survey by the National Retail Federation](#) predicts the second most popular gift during the 2024 holiday season to be gift certificates. The most popular gift card category was restaurants, making up 30% of all gift card sales. 25% of gift certificates were issued for department stores, and 22% were issued for coffee shops. Shoppers spent an average of \$51.18 per card. In total,

consumers were expected to spend \$28.6 billion on gift cards in 2023.

With inflation and recession concerns, shoppers are making it a priority to use gift cards, according to [a Bankrate study](#). 39% of consumers say they are putting in the effort, and this is especially true for members of Gen Z, with 50% of people ages 18-26 prioritizing gift card use.

Gift certificates issued in California cannot contain an expiration date under state law, so the funds are indefinitely available. Once purchased, the profit from the sale of a gift certificate is immediately available to the issuing company. There is a nearly 100 percent profit margin if the consumer does not use the gift card. Every cent of unspent gift cards adds up to hundreds of millions of dollars captured by companies every single year with no exchange for goods or services. Gift certificates are gifted with the intention of being entirely spent by the receiver, and the law should allow them to do so.

THIS BILL

Senate Bill 22 raises the cash redeemable amount on a gift certificate from the current \$9.99 maximum to \$24.99 with an annual adjustment for CPI. It will also require a notice of the right to redeem to be displayed at registers. Today, every penny counts to a consumer and this will put more cash back into the pockets of Californians at a time when it matters most.

Introduced by Senator Laird

December 2, 2024

An act to amend Section 1749.5 of the Civil Code, relating to consumer protection.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 22, as introduced, Laird. Gift certificates.

Existing law provides that a gift certificate, sold after January 1, 1997, is redeemable in cash or subject to replacement with a new gift certificate except that a gift certificate with a cash value of less than \$10 is redeemable in cash for its cash value.

This bill would instead make a gift certificate with a cash value of less than \$25, adjusted annually for inflation based on the California Consumer Price Index and rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount, redeemable in cash for its cash value and would require an issuer of gift certificates to display at the cash register a notice of the right of the holder to redeem a gift certificate for cash pursuant to that provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1749.5 of the Civil Code is amended to
- 2 read:
- 3 1749.5. (a) It is unlawful for any person or entity to sell a gift
- 4 certificate to a purchaser that contains any of the following:
- 5 (1) An expiration date.
- 6 (2) A service fee, including, but not limited to, a service fee for
- 7 dormancy, except as provided in subdivision (e).

1 (b) (1) ~~Any (A)~~ A gift certificate sold after January 1, 1997, is
2 redeemable in cash for its cash ~~value~~, *value* or subject to
3 replacement with a new gift certificate at no cost to the purchaser
4 or holder.

5 ~~(2)~~

6 (B) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), ~~any~~ a gift certificate with
7 a cash value of less than ~~ten dollars (\$10)~~ *twenty-five dollars (\$25)*,
8 *adjusted annually for inflation based on the California Consumer*
9 *Price Index and rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount*, is
10 redeemable in cash for its cash value.

11 (2) *An issuer of gift certificates shall display at the cash register*
12 *a notice of the right of the holder to redeem a gift certificate for*
13 *cash pursuant to this subdivision.*

14 (c) A gift certificate sold without an expiration date is valid
15 until redeemed or replaced.

16 (d) This section does not apply to any of the following gift
17 certificates issued on or after January 1, 1998, ~~provided if~~ the
18 expiration date appears in capital letters in at least 10-point font
19 on the front of the gift certificate:

20 (1) ~~Gift certificates~~ *A gift certificate that are* is distributed by
21 the issuer to a consumer pursuant to an awards, loyalty, or
22 promotional program without any money or other thing of value
23 being given in exchange for the gift certificate by the consumer.

24 (2) ~~Gift certificates~~ *A gift certificate that are* is donated or sold
25 below face value at a volume discount to ~~employers~~ *an employer*
26 or to ~~a nonprofit and or a charitable organizations~~ *organization*
27 for fundraising purposes if the expiration date on ~~those gift~~
28 ~~certificates that~~ *gift certificate* is not more than 30 days after the
29 date of sale.

30 (3) ~~Gift certificates~~ *A gift certificate that are* is issued for
31 perishable food products.

32 (e) Paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) does not apply to a
33 dormancy fee on a gift card that meets all of the following criteria:

34 (1) The remaining value of the gift card is five dollars (\$5) or
35 less each time the fee is assessed.

36 (2) The fee does not exceed one dollar (\$1) per month.

37 (3) There has been no activity on the gift card for 24 consecutive
38 months, including, but not limited to, purchases, the adding of
39 value, or balance inquiries.

40 (4) The holder may reload or add value to the gift card.

1 (5) A statement is printed on the gift card in at least 10-point
2 font stating the amount of the fee, how often the fee will occur,
3 that the fee is triggered by inactivity of the gift card, and at what
4 point the fee will be charged. The statement may appear on the
5 front or back of the gift card, but shall appear in a location where
6 it is visible to any purchaser prior to the purchase thereof.

7 (f) An issuer of gift certificates may accept funds from one or
8 more contributors toward the purchase of a gift certificate intended
9 to be a gift for a ~~recipient, provided that recipient~~ if each
10 contributor is provided with a full refund of the amount that ~~he or~~
11 ~~she the contributor~~ paid toward the purchase of the gift certificate
12 upon the occurrence of all of the following:

13 (1) The funds are contributed for the purpose of being redeemed
14 by the recipient by purchasing a gift certificate.

15 (2) The time in which the recipient may redeem the funds by
16 purchasing a gift certificate is clearly disclosed in writing to the
17 contributors and the recipient.

18 (3) The recipient does not redeem the funds within the time
19 described in paragraph (2).

20 (g) The changes made to this section by the act adding this
21 subdivision shall apply only to gift certificates issued on or after
22 January 1, 2004.

23 (h) For purposes of this section, "cash" includes, but is not
24 limited to, currency or check. If accepted by both parties, an
25 electronic funds transfer or an application of the balance to a
26 subscriber's wireless telecommunications account is permissible.