

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Request for Reconsideration of)	WC Docket Nos. 09-197
Free Press et al Concerning Lifeline)	11-42
Broadband Providers)	DA 17-213
)	

**REPLY COMMENTS IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERS
REQUESTING REVERSAL OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
DECISION TO SUSPEND DESIGNATION OF LIFELINE BROADBAND PROVIDERS
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION AND
CONSORTIUM FOR SCHOOL NETWORKING ON BEHALF OF THE SIGNATORIES**

Letter in Opposition to Lifeline Broadband Provider Designation Revocation

March 17, 2017

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Lifeline program

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner Clyburn, and Commissioner O'Rielly:

Thanks to the Federal Communications Commission's (the Commission's) 2016 decision to modernize the Lifeline program to include discounted monthly service for broadband service, many low-income families across the nation can now receive affordable home internet access. We commend this action but fear it has been undercut by the Wireline Bureau's recent decision to revoke the national designation of nine Lifeline Broadband Providers. We urge the Commission to reverse this decision and deliver on its promise to expand home internet access.

It is vital in the modern world that all students have access to broadband when they are in and out of school. The Commission took commendable action when it expanded and modernized the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund (E-rate), improving access to the internet in schools across the nation. The expansion of E-rate is demonstrating success in schools and libraries and is an important step in improving education for all students when they are at school or working in a library. But gaps still exist for students when they are not in school.

High-quality home internet access is as essential to learning today as traditional text books were thirty years ago. Without high-speed broadband at home, students face challenges in completing assignments, conducting research, and receiving additional assistance after school. Home internet access is a critical element of educational infrastructure in the twenty-first century.

As leaders in education, we urge the Commission to expand home internet access and reverse its decision to suspend the designation of each Lifeline Broadband Provider.

Sincerely,

Diane Elder
Director of Schools
Pickett County Schools
Byrdstown, TN

Bridget O'Connell
Superintendent
Palisades School District
Kintnersville, PA

Jeanne Barker
Director of Schools
Lenoir City Schools
Lenoir City, TN

Melanie Miller
Director of Schools
Athens City Schools
Athens, TN

Bill Shields
Superintendent
CCSD93
Bloomington, IL

Frank Reeves
Superintendent
East Grand School District #2
Granby, CO

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Sandra Harper
Director of Schools
Trenton Special School District
Trenton, TN

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Chris Gdowski
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Jake Dingman
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Oakesdale, WA

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Mentor, OH

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East Noble School Corporation
Kendallville, IN

Beth Niedermeyer
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Noblesville Schools
Noblesville, IN

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Chris Sampson
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Vista Unified School District
Vista, CA

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Portland Public Schools
Portland, ME

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Saint Louis, MO

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Stanley County 57-1
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