Comment regarding the accessibility of broadband internet for low-income people:

Our society is becoming increasingly internet-based. In many cases those trying to enter or re-enter the workforce have to negotiate a maze of online applications, which require the creation and maintenance of an email account and oftentimes the ability to upload documents such as resumes. For those seeking housing or trying to improve their lives through higher education the assumption of personal internet access is always present. Younger students are required to do online research in school, and this often extends to their homework. In families where there is not the ability, time or resources to travel to other internet access the lack of access can be crippling across the board.

The digital divide is ever-widening, and the low-income population is plummeting to its depths as the disparity between the haves and have-nots grows and puts them at an increasing disadvantage. The ability to have access to broadband internet is crucial to their ability to attain even a minimal standard of existence. For students, this access represents the ability to be successful in their studies and ensuing entry into higher academics or the workforce. For adults it is the difference between self-sufficiency and steady progress versus the necessity of finding a way across the divide before being able to move forward.

By slowing down the rollout of subsidies for broadband access for the low-income population, the FCC is negating the positive progress shown in its 5G and Accessible Communications initiatives. Moving the internet-rich citizens forward into the future without offering access to the same opportunities for the low-income only widens the digital divide and increases the class disparity that is growing in our society.