



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

In response to your request for periodic updates on the implementation of the National Verifier for Lifeline eligibility, I am providing this update on the Commission's efforts to advance the implementation of the National Verifier.

Over the last quarter, Commission staff have remained actively engaged in a number of important steps associated with implementing the National Verifier. Commission staff have reviewed and provided feedback on USAC's National Verifier development and implementation plans on an ongoing basis to ensure the National Verifier is implemented in a cost-effective manner that will create a more effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible program. USAC filed an updated National Verifier Plan on January 19, 2018.<sup>1</sup> Commission staff have also overseen the development of National Verifier processes to ensure compliance with the Lifeline rules and applicable laws.

In particular, Commission staff have assisted in finalizing forms for use with the National Verifier and released a Public Notice providing guidance on the implementation of those forms,<sup>2</sup> reviewed and provided guidance on training materials that will be used to train individuals interacting with the National Verifier, reviewed and worked toward finalizing data sharing agreements with two additional states for a future launch, and continued to support efforts to enter into data sharing agreements with other states and federal data sources. Commission staff have also been involved in providing ongoing feedback on USAC's information technology and security compliance efforts and reviewing additional procurements, when appropriate.

As indicated in my last quarterly update, USAC continues to focus on addressing FISMA compliance to ensure the National Verifier will be a secure system. Commission staff have worked closely with USAC during the last quarter to align on the path forward for a successful initial launch. USAC has completed several steps in this process and is making significant strides toward completing all FISMA requirements. Information about the precise launch schedule is still forthcoming as Commission staff and USAC work to finalize those dates;

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<sup>1</sup> See USAC, Lifeline National Verifier Plan (Jan. 2018), [https://www.usac.org/\\_res/documents/li/pdf/nv/2018-January-National-Verifier-Plan.pdf](https://www.usac.org/_res/documents/li/pdf/nv/2018-January-National-Verifier-Plan.pdf).

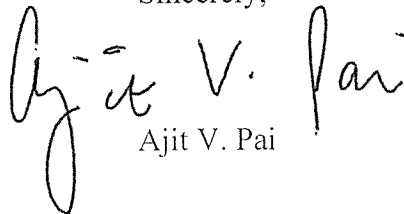
<sup>2</sup> Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance on Universal Forms for the Lifeline Program, Public Notice, DA 18-161 (WCB Feb. 20, 2018), available at [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-18-161A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-18-161A1.pdf).

however, stakeholders will be provided with advance notice regarding the initial launch once the dates are finalized.

Commission staff and USAC continue to work on the expansion of the National Verifier in additional states to minimize the impact of the initial delay and are close to finalizing data sharing agreements in two additional states. Going forward, USAC has identified additional states and territories that it believes are appropriate candidates for launch in 2018 and is working with these states and territories to obtain data sharing agreements, where applicable, in addition to actively seeking data sharing agreements with federal agencies to maximize automated enrollment opportunities and cost savings. Commission staff and USAC are actively working with two federal agencies toward data sharing agreements. In addition, Commission staff and USAC are working to develop effective Tribal outreach strategies and are working closely with one Tribal nation to incorporate its Tribal assistance program database information into the National Verifier. As USAC and the Commission get closer to finalizing plans to launch the National Verifier in additional states after the initial launch, the Wireline Competition Bureau will make announcements regarding the deployment schedule. I remain confident that the launch of the National Verifier will help root out waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, in concert with the Commission's ongoing review of necessary programmatic changes to improve the integrity and efficacy of the Lifeline program.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part, followed by "V." and "Pai".

Ajit V. Pai