

July 17, 2020



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

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MAILING ADDRESS

301 East Colorado Blvd.
S# 426
Pasadena, CA 91101
ATTN BILL HRANCHAK, CPA
(323) 660-7234
FAX (323) 664-7222

Lisa D. Baca

Executive Director

Cell 213 910-2592

Email clli.baca@gmail.com

www.calatinoleaders.org

IRS 501 c 3 FEIN #47-1243514

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Founded in 2014 as a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, the Mission of the CA Latino Leadership Institute (CLLI) is to develop diverse entrepreneurial and action-oriented public, corporate and community leaders as effective mentors, creating a better future for California. Southeast Los Angeles is one of Southern California's most environmentally toxic, underserved low-income immigrant communities. Southeast schools generally have above average dropout rates and high teen pregnancy rates. The opportunities for white collar career track employment and civic engagement are very limited.

For the last five years, CLLI has presented the *Southeast Youth Workforce Development and Civic Engagement Program* in the eight southeast cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, South Gate and Vernon. One of CLLI's biggest goals is to create pathways for young adults to close their career opportunity gaps and show them that a great career is within reach. Reflecting this same mission, Charter recently launched Spectrum Scholars, a scholarship program supporting underrepresented students. Through this program, students have access to financial support, a two-year professional development program (including a Charter mentor), and potential internship opportunities at Charter. As educational and career opportunities are our main focus at the CLLI, we fully support companies like Charter who are on the front lines of making a difference through programs like Spectrum Scholars.

With the current COVID 19 global pandemic negatively impacting younger California Latinos in greater numbers, Charter has outwardly shown what the Latino community means to their company. CLLI respects that Charter has created a workforce that is almost 50% people of color – a company who is truly representing what California and most of America looks like each day.

Charter has a demonstrated exemplary track record for following through on its commitment to bridge the digital divide, they are a model corporate citizen who has showcased their ability to go above and beyond their role of delivering broadband services. As a community partner, CLLI was very proud to see Charter honored as a *Top Company for People of Color* by the National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications.

CLLI is requesting that the FCC end two merger conditions that were placed on Charter Communications in back in 2016 before COVID 19 changed the world. These two conditions regarding prohibiting data caps/usage-based pricing and requiring settlement-free interconnection do not allow Charter to be on the same playing field as other providers in this marketplace. Their request to end these conditions, as the FCC laid out in the merger, should be honored by May of next year.

CLLI has also centered programming around women's issues and achievement through our Women's Leadership Summit in Central California. We gather Statewide leaders across industry sectors to discuss female leadership and opportunities in the workforce, education and politics. We are proud to have Charter as a sponsor of our Summit over the past 4 years, witnessing firsthand their commitment to supporting programs like these. CLLI supports Charter's petition to terminate the aforementioned two merger conditions so the company may be held to the same standards as all other providers.

Sincerely,

Lisa D. Baca

Executive Director