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The National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc. (NCBA) is one of the oldest organizations dedicated to ensuring a quality of life for minority seniors as they age. Older adults are the bedrock of our country and deserve to enjoy life and have access to expanding capacity and technology.

Healthcare is a key focus of NCBA. Wireless technology is transforming the space, offering new options for health and wellness. It has particular promise for those who want to age in place.

NCBA has great interest in the expansion of telemedicine and mobile health. These technologies could help seniors to easily monitor and manage their health. This technology could also allow doctors to remotely evaluate, diagnose and treat older adults, many of whom have challenges related to rural locations and access to transportation. Seniors could have access to timely and quality care from the comfort of home.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has made notable strides to modernize wireless infrastructure policy to better position the U.S. to be 5G ready. However, there is still the need to establish a framework to further streamline regulations to advance this service. Creating a hospitable environment for deployment will benefit all communities, but it will also benefit the next generation of networks. Outdated regulations will hold back the future and impede the buildout of new national 5G networks – slowing down global growth and innovation.

There is enormous potential and value in 5G – both from economic and societal perspectives. 5G can support telemedicine and mobile health. Leaders at all levels of government must do their respective part to ensure success. Cities and states that work with the private sector to streamline policies related to network infrastructure will ensure their digital future as well as their constituents'.

NCBA recognizes the value of 5G as these technologies could expand in power and scope that exponentially will provide faster speeds and instantaneous response times. We all envision a world where a pervasive network of connected devices for our constituents, but especially for older Americans who need to be connected, healthy and comfortable.

NCBA supports addressing the inconsistencies in the regulatory process which could delay deployment of 5G. This technology could provide our senior community independence and provide a needed health delivery system. As we age, we need reduced burdens and worries. 5G would address many technological needs and provide support services. We respectfully request your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Karyne Jones
President and CEO

*The preeminent
national organization
on issues impacting
African Americans
age 50 and over.*