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NYOS Charter School is writing in response to the Petition for Reconsideration (Report 3017, WC Docket No. 13-184, WC Docket No. 10-90). The Commission has been asked to reconsider its decision to phase out E-rate support for voice services -- plain old telephone service, cellular, and VoIP.

The mission of the modernization order was to focus on telecommunication and information services necessary to support broadband to and within schools with the result of furthering broadband deployment across the country. The phase out of voice services impacts this goal by gradually shifting financial burden onto the schools which will negatively impact their ability to designate funds to increase broadband capacity.

NYOS, is a case in point. We are a Title 1 school that serves a population of approximately 900 students in grades Pre-K ? 12. For many of our students, we are the only place where they have access to computers and to the other educational elements that a strong broadband system provides. We are currently working on developing a STEM program that would make our students competitive in the collegiate and professional world. The budgets, as with all schools, are tight, but the new modernization rules create a situation of robbing Peter to pay Paul. The monies that we were saving on voice services and web hosting, now have to come from different sources and some of that money will need to come from the development of our new STEM program.

NYOS Charter School supports the modernization order and recognizes that there are many competing priorities. We urge you to reconsider the complete dissolution of the voice services element of ERate and hope that you will be able to find a level of support for voice services that will balance the needs of all schools.