



The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554

November 17, 2015

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Trek Medics International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving emergency medical systems internationally in communities without reliable access to emergency care.

Our programs offer innovative and scalable solutions to emergency medical care, including BEACON, our SMS-based dispatch platform designed specifically for communities where consistent ambulance response is not available. By relaying SMS from the scene of an emergency to trained responders throughout the community, the software enables the nearest available emergency care providers to quickly locate, treat, and transport emergency victims to local hospitals.

In short, text messaging is a globally recognized means of connecting community members with vital public services, and we're proud to demonstrate that non-profit organizations are at the forefront of technological innovation and communication. Arbitrary blocking of our messages means that sometimes paramedics will find out when somebody is dying, and sometimes they won't, effectively negating the "just-in-time" responses needed in life-threatening medical emergencies.

While our services are aimed at global communities, we write to express our concern about arbitrary message filtering by carriers in the United States who play an integral role in our international communications relay chains, and the chilling effect of undelivered messages both for public-service oriented text messaging programs and on organizations building innovative communication solutions that can be hindered by undocumented carrier restrictions.

Without sufficient FCC oversight, carriers hold unchecked power to deliver or filter text messages as they see fit.

We call on the Federal Communications Commission to declare that mobile messaging services are critical to the public interest as telecommunications services under Title II of the Communications Act, and to foster continued innovation in public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Friesen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Friesen, MPH, EMT-P
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