



January 20, 2016

VIA ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Notice of Ex Parte Presentation – CTIA
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization (WC Docket
No. 11-42); Lifeline and Link Up, (WC Docket No. 03-109)*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 15, 2016, CTIA met with staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau to discuss the Commission's effort to modernize the Lifeline program in the above referenced dockets. CTIA met with Trent Harkrader, Jay Schwartz, Chas Eberle, Nathan Eagan, Jodie Griffin, and Garnet Hanley. CTIA was represented by Matthew Gerst, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Krista Witanowski, Assistant Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, and Patrick Halley, Counsel at Wilkinson Barker Knauer.

In the meeting, CTIA reiterated points made consistent with its prior advocacy. Namely, CTIA noted that low-income consumers overwhelmingly choose mobile wireless services to meet their communication, educational, health and occupational needs. CTIA emphasized that mobile wireless offerings have brought competition and innovation to the Lifeline program.

As the Commission considers how to modify the Lifeline program to support broadband service, mobile wireless must continue to be an integral part of the Lifeline program and eligible low-income consumers should have choice and control over the mobile wireless services that meet their needs. CTIA noted that if the Commission determines that minimum service criteria are necessary, such requirements should be carefully balanced between a desire to encourage provider participation in the Lifeline program and ensuring that low-income consumers are able to purchase mobile wireless services that meet their needs.

As the largest industry contributor to the federal universal service program, CTIA's member companies want the Commission to ensure an efficient and



effective Lifeline program. CTIA noted that modifications to the verification process for low-income consumer eligibility and enrollment, such as through the use of a national third party verifier, that can improve the efficiency of the program should also enable providers to establish and maintain customer relationships.

This letter is filed consistent with the Commission's ex parte rules. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew Gerst

Matthew Gerst
Director
Regulatory Affairs

cc: Trent Harkrader
Jay Schwartz
Chas Eberle
Nathan Eagan
Jodie Griffin
Garnet Hanley