

**Notice of Ex Parte**

April 1, 2016

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Re: *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*, WC Docket No. 11-42, *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 09-197, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90

The attached letter dated March 31, 2016, to Chairman Wheeler from several Members of Congress was received regarding the referenced proceeding. Under Section 1.1203(a) (4) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1203(a) (4), presentations made by a Member of Congress or his or her staff are explicitly exempt from the Sunshine period prohibition on ex parte presentations. If the presentation is of substantial significance and clearly intended to affect the ultimate decision, and is made in a permit-but-disclose proceeding, the presentation must be placed in the record.

FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN  
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 31, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

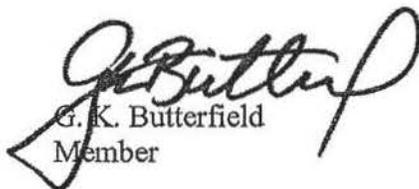
We write to express concerns that the Commission is considering establishing a hard cap on the Lifeline program. We urge the Commission to reject a cap when it votes at the Agenda meeting today.

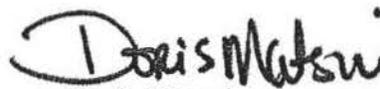
While we have long supported the Lifeline program and the essential assistance that it provides to low-income Americans, we cannot support any action that would severely limit the program. Demand is expected to increase as the program transitions to include broadband service, and any cap would threaten the goals and purpose of Lifeline.

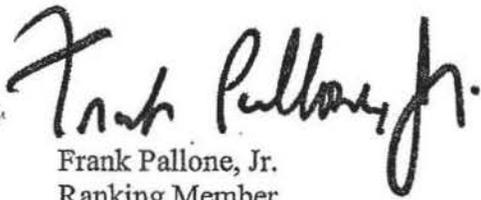
We strongly support the Commission's effort to modernize and expand Lifeline, but by establishing an artificial cap on funding from the outset, many low-income consumers could find themselves without any mechanism to bridge the digital divide.

We urge the Commission to reject imposing a cap on Lifeline.

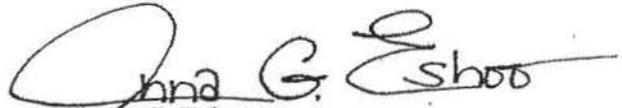
Sincerely,

  
G. K. Butterfield  
Member

  
Doris Matsui  
Member



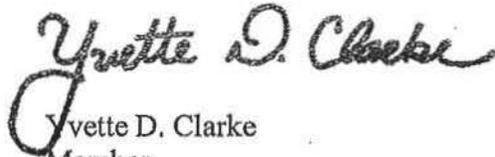
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member



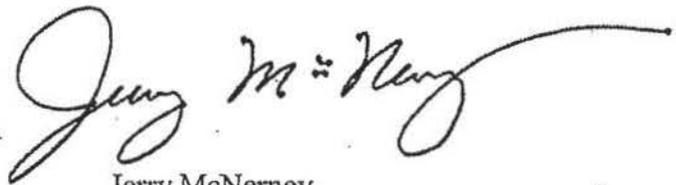
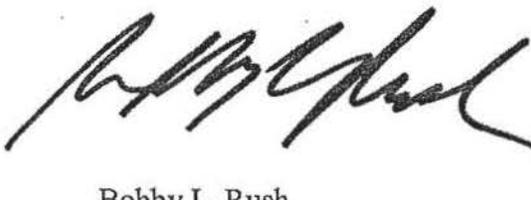
Anna G. Eshoo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications &  
Technology



Michael F. Doyle  
Member



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member



Bobby L. Rush  
Member

Jerry McNerney  
Member



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member

cc: The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications  
Commission  
The Honorable Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission