



Education

Community

Family

"Tampa's Partnership for Education"

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I feel compelled to write upon hearing that the Federal Communications Commission is considering making changes to the Lifeline Telephone Assistance program. Lifeline has been extremely successful in meeting its goals, no doubt due to how well it provides callers in Hillsborough County with an affordable choice in wireless and wireline services. Over the years many of the families of our students' here at Trinity School for Children have benefited from this program.

However, I am concerned at the prospect of your agency penalizing wireless subscribers by adding a fee for subscribing to Lifeline. Prepaid wireless providers like Safelink Wireless have carved a niche for themselves by helping thousands of Floridians afford telephone service. Any new fees would be especially onerous on minority communities that depend on Lifeline to be connected to the opportunities that telephone service provides. The unemployment rate among Hispanics is a problem that must be addressed immediately, and all of us need to work together to ensure that citizens are easily able to enter the workforce.

I am confident that your agency will take reasonable steps forward to curb any fraud and waste found in the Lifeline program, but must ask you to not implement any new fees that would hurt our needy residents in Hillsborough County. The current Lifeline fee system should be maintained in order to best help those who need it the most.

Sincerely,

Sonia Spoto, Principal
Trinity School for Children