

TO: Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket N. 14-57

Dear Chairman and Commissioners

I serve as a program manager for Thornton Township's Youth and Family Services department in Illinois as well as volunteer computer lab coordinator with the Thornton Township Youth Committee Program Inc. The committee is a non-profit entity devoted to providing services that enhance the quality of life for youth and families throughout our township, with a population of 170,000- is the largest in the state of Illinois. I write today to voice my support for the proposed Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction.

As a longtime resident and community leader in Thornton Township, a Comcast- served market, I can personally attest to the commitment that Comcast has shown toward improving our communities, increasing digital literacy, and providing support for our students, so that they can grow into tomorrow's leaders.

For the past 3 to 4 years, Comcast has partnered itself with the Youth Committee on several projects. With the help of the Comcast Foundation, we were able to upgrade our computer lab and purchase new equipment and educational software to support our after school tutoring program. In 2013, Comcast brought its largest day of national service- Comcast Cares Day- to Thornton, partnering with the Youth Committee to sponsor multiple projects ranging from community beautification to the organization of a food bank.

One of the most important contributions that Comcast has made to our township, which I'd like to highlight, is its Internet Essential Program. Since 2011, Comcast has provided affordable Internet, computers for \$150 or less, and free digital literacy training classes to low-income families with children that qualify for free lunches under the National School Lunch Program. This program has been essential to many lower- income families that cannot afford to

pay the full fee for Internet access for their children. Without this program, these kids would be at a disadvantage in classrooms that are increasingly utilizing electronic curriculums.

Thornton Township, and the larger Cook County which we are a part of, has experienced tremendous success with Internet Essentials. I'm proud to say that by 2013, Cook County had activated over 16,000 residents eligible for Internet Essentials, the largest number for any county in the country. Comcast has recognized our region's success and continues to support it. Just this month, Comcast announced that it would be bringing an Internet Essentials Learning Zone to Thornton. Within this zone, Comcast will provide free indoor WiFi service, donate funds to enhance the community computer lab, create an additional computer lab, and provide free digital literacy training classes.

Our success in Cook County and Thornton Township has been great, but I know that other areas in the state and nation have serious room for improvement when it comes to bridging the digital divide. Comcast has said that it will expand its Internet Essentials program to newly-acquired markets if it is allowed to combine with Time Warner Cable. This would benefit millions of low-income families in major metropolitan markets currently served by Time Warner, including New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas, to name just a few.

I know that Comcast would be able to positively impact even more communities and economies if the proposed transaction were to be approved, and I hope that you feel the same.

Sincerely,

Larry Lawrence

Larry Lawrence
Program Manager