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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 12th 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.

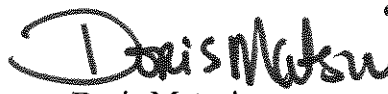
While we have long supported the Lifeline program and the essential assistance that it provides to low-income Americans, we cannot support any action that would severely limit the program. Demand is expected to increase as the program transitions to include broadband service, and any cap would threaten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

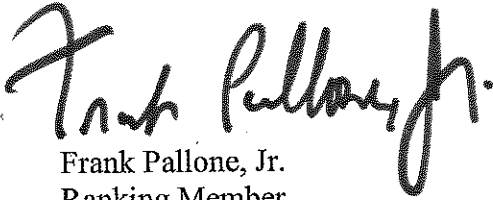
We strongly support the Commission's effort to modernize and expand Lifeline, but by establishing an artificial cap on funding from the outset, many low-income consumers could find themselves without any mechanism to bridge the digital divide.

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

Sincerely,


G. K. Butterfield
Member


Doris Matsui
Member



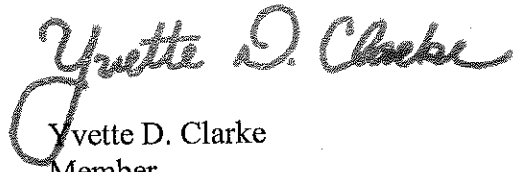
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member



Anna G. Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications &
Technology



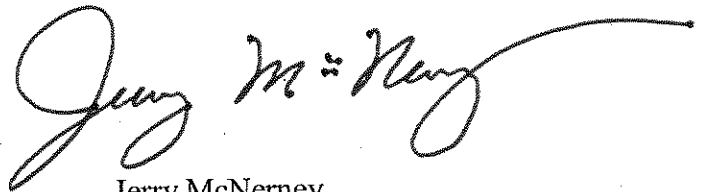
Michael F. Doyle
Member



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