

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2011

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

RE: WC Docket No. 11-42 - Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization
CC Docket No. 96-45 - Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
WC Docket No. 03-109 - Lifeline and Link Up

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

On behalf of our constituents, we write to thank the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Fund's Lifeline program. The services provided through Lifeline are extraordinarily important to our most economically disadvantaged citizens and we applaud your efforts to fortify this program.

As you would surely agree, owning a cell phone is a necessity in modern society, providing help in finding and maintaining employment and staying safe in emergency situations. It is for these reasons that the Lifeline program has been, and continues to be, such an important program for our constituents. Unemployment amongst African-Americans remains significantly higher than the general population and we want to ensure that these citizens have access to the phone services that will help them reenter the workforce.

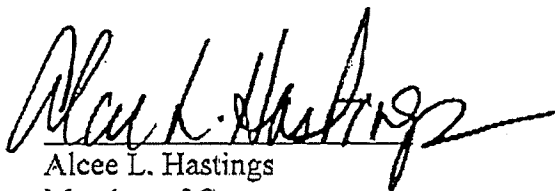
Many of the recommendations that the FCC has recently made will help to strengthen Lifeline, but there were some proposed changes that we believe are shortsighted and ultimately not in the best interests of the FCC or the low-income families who benefit from these services.

We strongly believe that one of the aspects of the Lifeline program that has made it effective has been the fact that it is free for eligible households. The recent recommendation to install an as-yet undetermined "barrier to entry" will, we believe, dismantle a fundamental benefit of the program. Additionally, capping the fund would create an unfair barrier preventing access by both low-income families who want to participate in the program as well as the states where penetration rates are still low.

Again, we are largely supportive of the FCC's efforts to find a long-term solution to issues affecting Lifeline. However, we believe that in times of such economic turmoil and uncertainty, the Commission should not adopt measures that place undue burden on Lifeline subscribers. The people who use this service are our most disadvantaged constituents, family, friends and neighbors and they should be able to benefit from this important program.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working together with the FCC to address this important matter.

Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



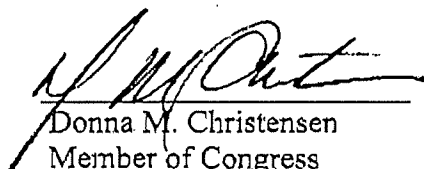
Karen Bass
Member of Congress



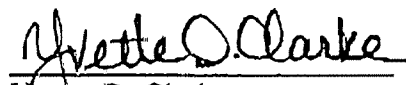
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



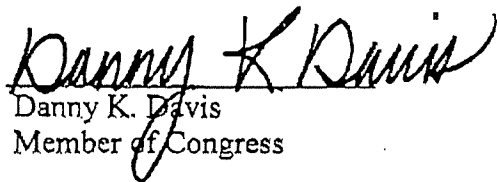
André Carson
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Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress



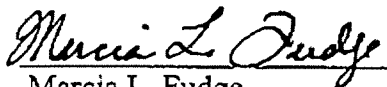
Yvette D. Clarke
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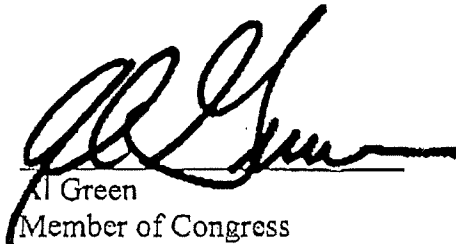
Danny K. Davis
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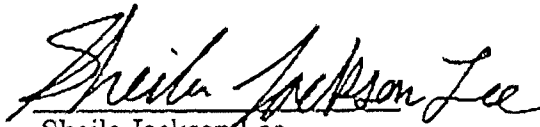
Keith Ellison
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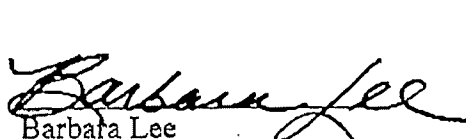


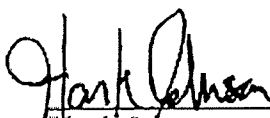
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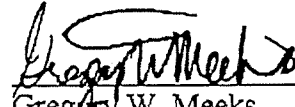


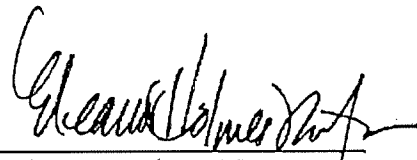
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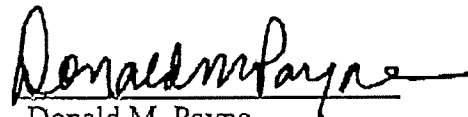

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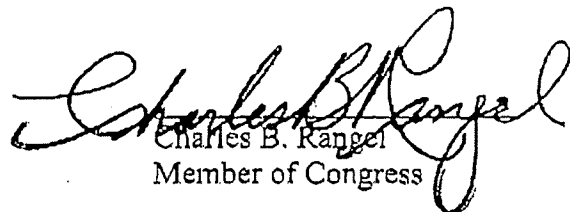

Barbara Lee
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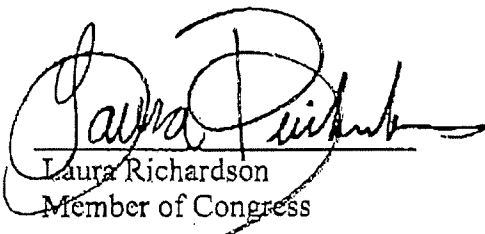

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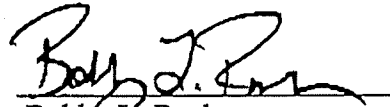

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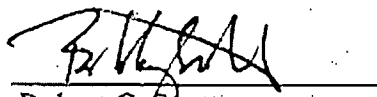

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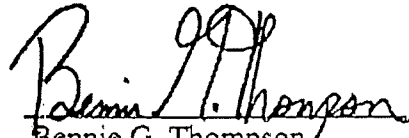

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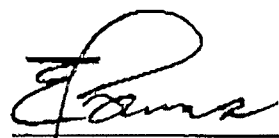

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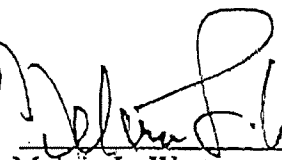

Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

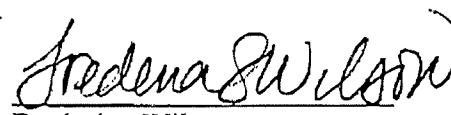

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Member of Congress

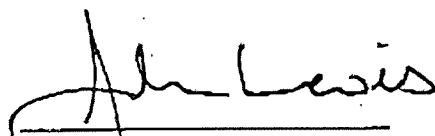

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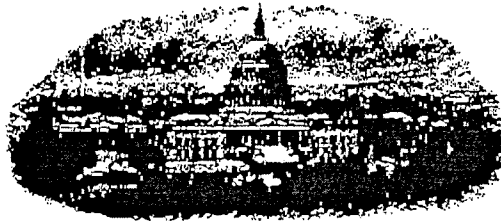

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress

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AND BUDGET PROCESS
RANKING MEMBER**UNITED STATES**HELSINKI COMMISSION
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBERFLORIDA DELEGATION
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

SENIOR DEMOCRATIC WHIP

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Washington, DC 20515-0923

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www.alceehastings.house.gov**FAX COVER SHEET**To: Chairman Julius GenachowskiFrom: Congressman Alcee L. Hastings**Office of Congressman Alcee L. Hastings****Phone: (202) 225-1313****Fax: (202) 225-1171**Subject: CBC Lifeline letterDate: 07-14-11 Pages (incl. cover): 5Please see attached.**If you have any problems with this transmission, please call (202) 225-1313.**

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