**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O’RIELLY**

**ON LIFELINE PROGRAM**

The Commission has to be seriously troubled by GAO’s findings and recommendation for the Lifeline program. Clearly, the GAO report, in response to Chairman Thune’s request, raises significant and fundamental concerns regarding the underlying program, as well as the pilot projects. As I have suggested before, the current program is inefficient, costly, and in serious need of review. We must reevaluate our priorities for the consideration of any Lifeline changes.