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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

May 16, 2019

293

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I applaud the FCC's efforts to prevent waste, fraud and abuse in the Lifeline program, including through its recent launch of the National Verifier program, which is a critical tool in determining subscribers' eligibility. Like you, I want to ensure that the rollout of this program is done in a smooth and efficient manner—both for subscribers and service providers alike.

To that end, it is imperative that the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is able to secure adequate database access and complete implementation of service provider application programming interface (API) connectivity. This will ensure that automated/electronic verification can be facilitated and that Lifeline service providers are able to effectively assist consumers with the application and verification processes, which – for an array of reasons— can be challenging for these vulnerable citizens.

I understand that the FCC has pending before it a waiver request that would provide interim relief by allowing service providers to assist consumers by providing eligibility information to the National Verifier in batches for an eligibility determination. Will the FCC grant this waiver request or establish some alternate form of electronic submission to verify eligibility in the interim period prior to full launch of the service provider API?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress