The Honorable John N. Kennedy  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
United States Senate  
S-128 The Capital Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Chairman Kennedy:

On July 29, 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Assess Making Off-School-Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal Support*, GAO 19-564 (Off-Premises Wireless Access Report). GAO was asked to review wireless Internet access for school-age children in lower-income households. The Off-Premises Wireless Access Report examines (1) challenges lower-income school-age children who lack in-home fixed broadband face in doing homework that involves Internet access and (2) selected school districts’ efforts to expand wireless access for students and the federal role in those efforts. GAO also examined prior FCC efforts to expand wireless access for students and compared them to federal internal control standards and pilot-program design best practices.

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Closing the digital divide is my top priority, and the Commission’s E-Rate program plays a critical role in addressing this issue by facilitating and promoting increased broadband deployment to our nation’s schools and libraries. As Commission staff undertakes this analysis, and as noted in the Bureau Chief’s response to GAO, we will remain mindful of limits of the Commission’s authority under sections 254(h)(1)(B) and 254(h)(2) of the Communications Act, which require respectively that services be provided for “educational purposes” and that rules “enhance, to the extent technically feasible and

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economically reasonable, access to advanced telecommunications and information services for . . . school classrooms . . . and libraries."

I appreciate the GAO's thorough analysis and recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Off-Premises Wireless Access Report, and please let me know if you require further assistance on this subject.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Chris Coons  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
United States Senate  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coons:

On July 29, 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled FCC Should Assess Making Off-School-Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal Support, GAO-19-564 (Off-Premises Wireless Access Report). GAO was asked to review wireless Internet access for school-age children in lower-income households. The Off-Premises Wireless Access Report examines (1) challenges lower-income school-age children who lack in-home fixed broadband face in doing homework that involves Internet access and (2) selected school districts’ efforts to expand wireless access for students and the federal role in those efforts. GAO also examined prior FCC efforts to expand wireless access for students and compared them to federal internal control standards and pilot-program design best practices.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone:

On July 29, 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled **FCC Should Assess Making Off-School-Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal Support**, GAO 19-564 (Off-Premises Wireless Access Report). GAO was asked to review wireless Internet access for school-age children in lower-income households. The Off-Premises Wireless Access Report examines (1) challenges lower-income school-age children who lack in-home fixed broadband face in doing homework that involves Internet access and (2) selected school districts’ efforts to expand wireless access for students and the federal role in those efforts. GAO also examined prior FCC efforts to expand wireless access for students and compared them to federal internal control standards and pilot-program design best practices.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Gary Peters  
Ranking Member 
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
442 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  

Dear Senator Peters:

On July 29, 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Assess Making Off-School-Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal Support*, GAO 19-564 (Off-Premises Wireless Access Report).\(^1\) GAO was asked to review wireless Internet access for school-age children in lower-income households. The Off-Premises Wireless Access Report examines (1) challenges lower-income school-age children who lack in-home fixed broadband face in doing homework that involves Internet access and (2) selected school districts’ efforts to expand wireless access for students and the federal role in those efforts. GAO also examined prior FCC efforts to expand wireless access for students and compared them to federal internal control standards and pilot-program design best practices.

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I appreciate the GAO's thorough analysis and recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Off-Premises Wireless Access Report, and please let me know if you require further assistance on this subject.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Walden:

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Jordan:

On July 29, 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled "FCC Should Assess Making Off-School-Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal Support," GAO 19-564 (Off-Premises Wireless Access Report). GAO was asked to review wireless Internet access for school-age children in lower-income households. The Off-Premises Wireless Access Report examines (1) challenges lower-income school-age children who lack in-home fixed broadband face in doing homework that involves Internet access and (2) selected school districts’ efforts to expand wireless access for students and the federal role in those efforts. GAO also examined prior FCC efforts to expand wireless access for students and compared them to federal internal control standards and pilot-program design best practices.

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I appreciate the GAO's thorough analysis and recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Off-Premises Wireless Access Report, and please let me know if you require further assistance on this subject.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

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Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives
2000 Rayburn House Office Building (G Floor)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley:

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Page 2 – The Honorable Mike Quigley

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker:

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Ajit V. Pai
December 3, 2019

The Honorable Tom Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

On July 29, 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled FCC Should Assess Making Off-School-Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal Support, GAO 19-564 (Off-Premises Wireless Access Report). GAO was asked to review wireless Internet access for school-age children in lower-income households. The Off-Premises Wireless Access Report examines (1) challenges lower-income school-age children who lack in-home fixed broadband face in doing homework that involves Internet access and (2) selected school districts’ efforts to expand wireless access for students and the federal role in those efforts. GAO also examined prior FCC efforts to expand wireless access for students and compared them to federal internal control standards and pilot-program design best practices.

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economically reasonable, access to advanced telecommunications and information services for . . . school classrooms . . . and libraries."

I appreciate the GAO's thorough analysis and recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Off-Premises Wireless Access Report, and please let me know if you require further assistance on this subject.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai