The Honorable Cindy Axne  
U.S. House of Representatives  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Axne:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
439 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Anthony Brindisi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
329 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Brindisi:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congresswoman Bustos:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Carson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.
Dear Congressman Cicilline:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
May 27, 2020

The Honorable Gli Cisneros  
U.S. House of Representatives  
431 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cisneros:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2335 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Jim Costa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2081 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Costa:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable TJ Cox  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cox:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Angie Craig  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1523 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Craig:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Rodney Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1740 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
May 27, 2020

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congresswoman Haaland:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Hastings:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Kendra Horn  
U.S. House of Representatives  
415 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Horn:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
May 27, 2020

The Honorable Steven Horsford
U.S. House of Representatives
1330 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Horsford:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congresswoman Houlahan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Huffman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Trent Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Kelly:  

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
May 27, 2020

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
U.S. House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kilmer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Conor Lamb  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1224 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Lamb:  

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Barbara Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2470 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congresswoman Lee:  

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Ted Lieu
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lieu:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
May 27, 2020

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
U.S. House of Representatives
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lowenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congresswoman Luria:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lynch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Roger Marshall  
U.S. House of Representatives  
312 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Marshall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Jim McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
408 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congresswoman Mucarsel-Powell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Jose Neguse  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1419 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Neguse:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2136 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Panetta:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to...
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Stacey Plaskett  
U.S. House of Representatives  
331 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Plaskett:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
412 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Harley Rouda  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rouda:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Ryan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

That's why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act's Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC's E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission's gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Sablan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2367 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for
funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation
deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community
connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit
the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that
students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone
service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that
Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity.
Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have,
including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many
providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who
did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Kim Schrier  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1123 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schrier:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sewell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Xochitl Torres Small  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2444 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Torres Small:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Darren Soto  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1429 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Abigail Spanberger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1239 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Spanberger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ajit V. Pai
May 27, 2020

The Honorable Elise Stefanik  
U.S. House of Representatives  
318 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Mike Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
231 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Thompson:  

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries. 

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected. 

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congresswoman Tlaib:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable David Trone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Congressman Trone:  

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2302 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2020

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congresswoman Wexton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai
Dear Congressman Yarmuth:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission’s efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier; the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC’s use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other “services” to school “classrooms” and libraries.

That’s why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for a remote learning initiative—one that will give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act’s Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than $13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately $3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make $16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. The FCC is coordinating with the U.S. Department of Education on this effort, and I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos, Congress, governors, and schools and school districts across the country to ensure these funds are properly spent to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC’s E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission’s gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and enable them to focus on transitioning to
remote learning. This relief includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified how schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

Finally, it is important to note the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai