



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Aleutians East Borough School District's recent request for waiver of the E-Rate program's rules. Specifically, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the waiver request seeks permission to bring E-Rate funded Internet access beyond the school campus and into students' homes.

We will take into consideration all of the issues and concerns presented as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review in accordance with the law and the facts. As in all such cases, we will strive to achieve the E-Rate program's goal of providing important resources to eligible schools and libraries. I would note, however, that the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other services to school "classrooms" and libraries.

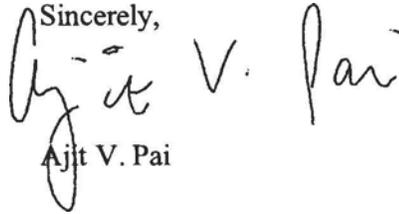
That's why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for remote learning—to give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and access online educational resources from home. I remain willing to work with you on solutions to this problem, especially a remote learning initiative of the kind I proposed several months ago.

In the meantime, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act's Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for funding for education technology. 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. I am pleased that the FCC has been working with Secretary DeVos and the U.S. Department of Education to help schools and school districts across the country learn about the availability of these funds and how they can be used 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

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. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified that schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Aleutians East Borough School District's recent request for waiver of the E-Rate program's rules. Specifically, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the waiver request seeks permission to bring E-Rate funded Internet access beyond the school campus and into students' homes.

We will take into consideration all of the issues and concerns presented as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review in accordance with the law and the facts. As in all such cases, we will strive to achieve the E-Rate program's goal of providing important resources to eligible schools and libraries. I would note, however, that the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other services to school "classrooms" and libraries.

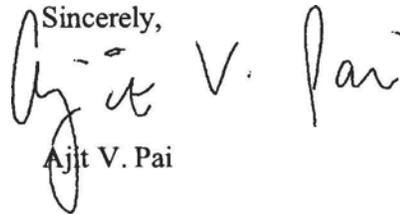
That's why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for remote learning—to give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and access online educational resources from home. I remain willing to work with you on solutions to this problem, especially a remote learning initiative of the kind I proposed several months ago.

In the meantime, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act's Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for funding for education technology. 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. I am pleased that the FCC has been working with Secretary DeVos and the U.S. Department of Education to help schools and school districts across the country learn about the availability of these funds and how they can be used 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

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. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified that schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Aleutians East Borough School District's recent request for waiver of the E-Rate program's rules. Specifically, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the waiver request seeks permission to bring E-Rate funded Internet access beyond the school campus and into students' homes.

We will take into consideration all of the issues and concerns presented as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review in accordance with the law and the facts. As in all such cases, we will strive to achieve the E-Rate program's goal of providing important resources to eligible schools and libraries. I would note, however, that the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other services to school "classrooms" and libraries.

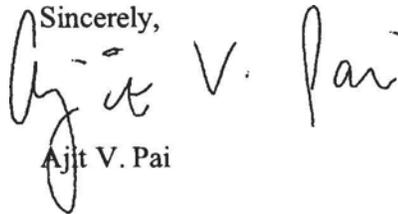
That's why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for remote learning—to give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and access online educational resources from home. I remain willing to work with you on solutions to this problem, especially a remote learning initiative of the kind I proposed several months ago.

In the meantime, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act's Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for funding for education technology. 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. I am pleased that the FCC has been working with Secretary DeVos and the U.S. Department of Education to help schools and school districts across the country learn about the availability of these funds and how they can be used 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. Additionally, to facilitate community connectivity during the coronavirus pandemic, we clarified that schools and libraries may permit the general public to use E-Rate-supported Wi-Fi networks.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai