

Media Contact:

Travis Litman, (202) 418-2400

Travis.Litman@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL ON
OMNIBUS FUNDING AND CORONAVIRUS RELIEF LEGISLATION**

WASHINGTON, December 21, 2020:

“This pandemic has demonstrated that access to broadband is no longer nice-to-have, it is need-to-have for everyone, everywhere. So it is terrific news that Congress has before it legislation that will boost connectivity during this crisis. Too many people in too many places are struggling without the ability to go online. With so much of modern life now dependent on internet access, no one should have to choose between paying a broadband bill and paying rent or buying groceries. Simply put, no matter who you are or where you live in this country, you should have access to broadband.

Significantly, this legislative effort also includes much-needed funding for the Federal Communications Commission to map the full extent of the digital divide, to support telehealth efforts during the pandemic, and to secure communications by replacing vulnerable equipment in our networks. In addition, it authorizes the auction of mid-band spectrum and protects key airwaves used by first responders. Plus, there are promising new initiatives at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to help connect Tribal lands and minority communities.

This legislation is only a start, but it is important because it is the beginning of what needs to be a national effort to connect 100% of us to broadband.”

###

Office of Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel: (202) 418-2400

Twitter: @JRosenworcel

www.fcc.gov/leadership/jessica-rosenworcel

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).