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**For Immediate Release**

**ACTING CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL WELCOMES PASSAGE  
OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE \$7.1 BILLION  
EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND FOR REMOTE LEARNING**

***Funding is Major Step Forward in Efforts to Close the Homework Gap***

WASHINGTON, March 10, 2021—FCC Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel issued the following statement today on House passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. If this legislation is signed by President Biden, it would create a new \$7.1 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund to support remote learning for schools and libraries:

“The nation’s Homework Gap has never been more evident than during this pandemic with the move to remote learning. So, passage of the American Rescue Plan which would create the Emergency Connectivity Fund is welcome news. That’s because millions of students are locked out of the virtual classroom right now. They can’t do daily schoolwork. They’re the kids sitting outside of the fast food restaurant just trying to catch a Wi-Fi signal to go to class.

“Recent estimates suggest the Homework Gap may affect as many as 17 million kids with recent data suggesting as many as one in three Black, Latinx, and American Indian/Alaska Native students lack high-speed internet access at home. The Emergency Connectivity Fund could make a major difference in our ability to help these families and students. The new funding can be used to pay for eligible equipment and services for schools and libraries to provide to students who need them. If enacted into law, we look forward to implementing this program so that every student can get the connection they now need for class.”

The American Rescue Plan would create a \$7.1 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund to help eligible schools and libraries purchase Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and connected devices to provide students with the broadband connections they need to complete their schoolwork and participate in the virtual classroom.

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*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).*