



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

As you note, in response to the pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund to ensure libraries and schools could connect students, school staff, and library patrons to allow them to fully engage in remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from this program, more than 6,800 schools and libraries were able to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to support broadband connectivity for nearly 1.2 million students, school staff, and library patrons who otherwise lacked internet access services suitable for remote learning.

What the Emergency Connectivity Fund taught us is that when schools and libraries around the country were able to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots to their students, school staff, and library patrons, they helped their communities stay connected. Those connections mattered during the pandemic. But they also matter post-pandemic. After all, this experience has made clearer than ever before that access to high-speed internet service is now essential to have a fair shot at success. Simply put, these connections are now vital for access to information and educational opportunities.

We now seek to build on those lessons from the pandemic and modernize the E-Rate program. With the sunset of the Emergency Connectivity Fund program slated for June 30, 2024, schools, libraries, and other stakeholders have renewed their requests to make support for

remote learning eligible through the E-Rate program. In response to these requests, the Commission sought public comment on how to develop a long-term solution for ongoing remote learning challenges.

More specifically, as you noted, learning and educational opportunities extend beyond the physical premise of the school or library building, and Congress provided the Commission with flexibility to adapt the E-Rate program in response to changing educational needs. The Commission has the responsibility under section 254 of the Communications Act to ensure that universal service is “an evolving level of telecommunications service.” The rulemaking recognizes the technologically advanced educational needs of students and library patrons that persist even when they are not physically at the school or library and responds by proposing to permit eligible schools and libraries to receive E-Rate program support for wireless connections like Wi-Fi hotspots that can be used off-premises by students, school staff, and library patrons. It also seeks comment on the eligibility of such services and equipment and how to adapt the E-Rate program to reflect the virtual nature of today’s modern educational environment, while remaining mindful of the Commission’s obligation to be a careful and prudent steward of universal service funds.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Grace Meng  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2209 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meng:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Laphonza R. Butler  
United States Senate  
G10 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Butler:

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May 14, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

As you note, in response to the pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund to ensure libraries and schools could connect students, school staff, and library patrons to allow them to fully engage in remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from this program, more than 6,800 schools and libraries were able to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to support broadband connectivity for nearly 1.2 million students, school staff, and library patrons who otherwise lacked internet access services suitable for remote learning.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable John Fetterman  
United States Senate  
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Fetterman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
United States Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Mark Kelly  
United States Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kelly:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senate  
498 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lujan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

As you note, in response to the pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund to ensure libraries and schools could connect students, school staff, and library patrons to allow them to fully engage in remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from this program, more than 6,800 schools and libraries were able to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to support broadband connectivity for nearly 1.2 million students, school staff, and library patrons who otherwise lacked internet access services suitable for remote learning.

What the Emergency Connectivity Fund taught us is that when schools and libraries around the country were able to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots to their students, school staff, and library patrons, they helped their communities stay connected. Those connections mattered during the pandemic. But they also matter post-pandemic. After all, this experience has made clearer than ever before that access to high-speed internet service is now essential to have a fair shot at success. Simply put, these connections are now vital for access to information and educational opportunities.

We now seek to build on those lessons from the pandemic and modernize the E-Rate program. With the sunset of the Emergency Connectivity Fund program slated for June 30, 2024, schools, libraries, and other stakeholders have renewed their requests to make support for

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
United States Senate  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Tina Smith  
United States Senate  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senate  
388 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warnock:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

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Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Peter Welch  
United States Senate  
G12 Senate Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Welch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

As you note, in response to the pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund to ensure libraries and schools could connect students, school staff, and library patrons to allow them to fully engage in remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from this program, more than 6,800 schools and libraries were able to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to support broadband connectivity for nearly 1.2 million students, school staff, and library patrons who otherwise lacked internet access services suitable for remote learning.

What the Emergency Connectivity Fund taught us is that when schools and libraries around the country were able to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots to their students, school staff, and library patrons, they helped their communities stay connected. Those connections mattered during the pandemic. But they also matter post-pandemic. After all, this experience has made clearer than ever before that access to high-speed internet service is now essential to have a fair shot at success. Simply put, these connections are now vital for access to information and educational opportunities.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1610 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2407 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bishop:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate  
530 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2332 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Espaillat:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Jill Tokuda  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tokuda:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Joyce Beatty  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2079 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Beatty:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
U.S. House of Representatives  
370 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McGovern:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

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

Dear Representative Norton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

As you note, in response to the pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund to ensure libraries and schools could connect students, school staff, and library patrons to allow them to fully engage in remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from this program, more than 6,800 schools and libraries were able to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to support broadband connectivity for nearly 1.2 million students, school staff, and library patrons who otherwise lacked internet access services suitable for remote learning.

What the Emergency Connectivity Fund taught us is that when schools and libraries around the country were able to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots to their students, school staff, and library patrons, they helped their communities stay connected. Those connections mattered during the pandemic. But they also matter post-pandemic. After all, this experience has made clearer than ever before that access to high-speed internet service is now essential to have a fair shot at success. Simply put, these connections are now vital for access to information and educational opportunities.

We now seek to build on those lessons from the pandemic and modernize the E-Rate program. With the sunset of the Emergency Connectivity Fund program slated for June 30, 2024, schools, libraries, and other stakeholders have renewed their requests to make support for

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Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

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

Dear Representative Lee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bonamici:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Josh Gottheimer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
203 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gottheimer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Adam B. Schiff  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schiff:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pingree:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Melanie A. Stansbury  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1421 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stansbury:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jackson Lee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Dwight Evans  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1105 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Evans:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Colin Allred  
U.S. House of Representatives  
348 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Allred:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
268 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

As you note, in response to the pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund to ensure libraries and schools could connect students, school staff, and library patrons to allow them to fully engage in remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from this program, more than 6,800 schools and libraries were able to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to support broadband connectivity for nearly 1.2 million students, school staff, and library patrons who otherwise lacked internet access services suitable for remote learning.

What the Emergency Connectivity Fund taught us is that when schools and libraries around the country were able to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots to their students, school staff, and library patrons, they helped their communities stay connected. Those connections mattered during the pandemic. But they also matter post-pandemic. After all, this experience has made clearer than ever before that access to high-speed internet service is now essential to have a fair shot at success. Simply put, these connections are now vital for access to information and educational opportunities.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Matsui:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Katie Porter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Porter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Chris Pappas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
452 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pappas:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Daniel Goldman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
245 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Goldman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McCollum:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Alma Adams  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2436 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Adams:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Haley Stevens  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2411 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stevens:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
272 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Deborah K. Ross  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1208 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ross:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

As you note, in response to the pandemic, Congress created the Emergency Connectivity Fund to ensure libraries and schools could connect students, school staff, and library patrons to allow them to fully engage in remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from this program, more than 6,800 schools and libraries were able to provide Wi-Fi hotspots to support broadband connectivity for nearly 1.2 million students, school staff, and library patrons who otherwise lacked internet access services suitable for remote learning.

What the Emergency Connectivity Fund taught us is that when schools and libraries around the country were able to loan out Wi-Fi hotspots to their students, school staff, and library patrons, they helped their communities stay connected. Those connections mattered during the pandemic. But they also matter post-pandemic. After all, this experience has made clearer than ever before that access to high-speed internet service is now essential to have a fair shot at success. Simply put, these connections are now vital for access to information and educational opportunities.

We now seek to build on those lessons from the pandemic and modernize the E-Rate program. With the sunset of the Emergency Connectivity Fund program slated for June 30, 2024, schools, libraries, and other stakeholders have renewed their requests to make support for

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

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Jessica Rosenworcel



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Nikema Williams  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Williams:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Jimmy Gomez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
506 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gomez:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rochester:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1203 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2346 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jayapal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tonko:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

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

Dear Representative Lynch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Val Hoyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1620 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

May 14, 2024

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1510 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Leger Fernandez:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent work to update the E-Rate program and ensure it reflects the current experiences and connection needs of schools and libraries.

For more than two decades, E-Rate has been a quiet powerhouse. It has provided schools and libraries across the country—in both rural and urban communities—with support for modern communications. As a result, over the years, it has helped millions of students and library patrons get online with access to high-speed internet service. Too often, however, that connectivity ends at the edge of the building. In light of changes in the way we all connect, it is time for an E-Rate program that supports the educational needs of students and library patrons and permits them to learn without limits. In other words, under existing law, this program is set for an update that helps ensure those who count on school and library connections can use them no matter who they are, or where they go.

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We now seek to build on those lessons from the pandemic and modernize the E-Rate program. With the sunset of the Emergency Connectivity Fund program slated for June 30, 2024, schools, libraries, and other stakeholders have renewed their requests to make support for

remote learning eligible through the E-Rate program. In response to these requests, the Commission sought public comment on how to develop a long-term solution for ongoing remote learning challenges.

More specifically, as you noted, learning and educational opportunities extend beyond the physical premise of the school or library building, and Congress provided the Commission with flexibility to adapt the E-Rate program in response to changing educational needs. The Commission has the responsibility under section 254 of the Communications Act to ensure that universal service is “an evolving level of telecommunications service.” The rulemaking recognizes the technologically advanced educational needs of students and library patrons that persist even when they are not physically at the school or library and responds by proposing to permit eligible schools and libraries to receive E-Rate program support for wireless connections like Wi-Fi hotspots that can be used off-premises by students, school staff, and library patrons. It also seeks comment on the eligibility of such services and equipment and how to adapt the E-Rate program to reflect the virtual nature of today’s modern educational environment, while remaining mindful of the Commission’s obligation to be a careful and prudent steward of universal service funds.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jessica Rosenworcel