

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS,
CONCURRING**

Re: *Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, WC Docket No. 13-184,
Report and Order

The E-Rate program is a vital tool in fighting internet inequality. In 2018 alone, it distributed over \$2.1 billion in support to connect schools and libraries across the country to broadband. While today's Order takes meaningful steps towards ensuring the efficient distribution of E-Rate support, we still have work to do. Five years ago, the Commission established a goal of 1 Mbps internet access per student. Unfortunately, 62 percent of school districts still do not meet that standard. I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve that goal.

Many thanks to the staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau for their work on this item.