

## **STATEMENT OF THE EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES NETWORKS COALITION REGARDING CHAIRMAN PAI'S RECENT DECISIONS AFFECTING THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE LIFELINE AND E-RATE PROGRAMS:**

**Washington, DC, February 7, 2017** -- The Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC) is extremely disappointed by FCC Chairman Pai's unilateral decision to revoke the designation of several telecommunications companies as Lifeline broadband providers. This decision will significantly hamper efforts to help close the homework gap for thousands of low-income and rural students, preventing them from gaining access to online resources, to college and employment applications, and to their teachers and peers. We cannot understand the need to block the roll-out of the Lifeline broadband program now and urge the Chairman to reconsider this action.

EdLiNC is also deeply concerned by Chairman Pai's decision to rescind the recently published E-Rate progress report, which does nothing more than demonstrate the progress that the program has made in delivering robust Wi-Fi to classrooms and libraries and providing fiber broadband connection opportunities to their buildings. E-Rate has done more to connect America's public and private schools and public libraries in the past 20 years than any other state or federal program and EdLiNC remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring the strength and viability of this program. We urge the Chairman to reconsider this action. EdLiNC looks forward to working with the FCC and Chairman Pai to ensure that the E-Rate program helps meet the needs of our schools and libraries and protects the continued distribution of E-Rate discounts in an equitable way.

### **About EdLiNC**

The Education and Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC), formed in 1995 to pass and implement the E-Rate program, represents many of the major K-12 public and private education associations and the American Library Association. EdLiNC has participated in every major regulatory proceeding involving E-Rate, most recently successfully spearheading efforts to modernize the program and raise its annual spending cap. [www.edlinc.org](http://www.edlinc.org)

### **EdLiNC Members**

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Library Association  
Association of School Business Officials, International  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
Consortium for School Networking  
International Society for Technology in Education  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Independent Schools  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Catholic Educational Association  
National Education Association  
National PTA  
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium  
National Rural Education Association  
National School Boards Association  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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