



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

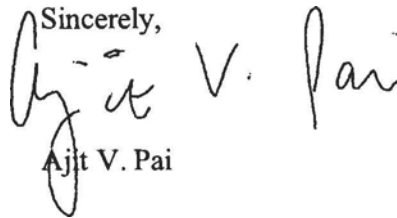
That's why, since March, I have been working with Congress to appropriate dedicated funding for remote learning to give students across this country an opportunity to connect with their teachers and online educational resources from home. Fortunately, the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act's Education Stabilization Fund provides one avenue for just such funding. In the CARES Act, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund provides more than \$13 billion in grants that elementary and secondary schools can use for purposes that include remote learning. More specifically, this funding can be used to purchase educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students. In addition, the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund makes approximately \$3 billion in emergency block grants available to governors to decide how to best meet the needs of students, and such funds can be used for remote learning. Together, these Funds make \$16 billion available to governors and schools, states and localities, to connect students to remote learning resources. I am pleased that the FCC has been working with Secretary DeVos and the U.S. Department of Education to help schools and school districts across the country learn about the availability of these funds and how they can be used to get our students connected.

Complementing this effort, we have also taken steps to help those schools that participate in the FCC's E-Rate program transition to online learning by waiving and extending several program rules and deadlines. One such waiver of the Commission's gift rule enables service providers to offer, and program participants to solicit and accept, free broadband connections, devices, and other services that support remote learning, which would otherwise be prohibited under our rules. Similarly, we have extended a number of E-Rate program deadlines to alleviate administrative and compliance burdens on schools and libraries during the pandemic. This relief

includes a 35-day extension of the application filing window for funding year 2020 and, more recently, a one-year extension of the service implementation deadline for special construction to deploy fiber.

Finally, it is important to note that the FCC has been working with the private sector so that students are connected with broadband at home. For example, over 750 broadband and phone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, and as a result of that Pledge, many households with students have been able to maintain their broadband connectivity. Moreover, we have encouraged providers to go above and beyond the Pledge and many have, including virtually all of the largest broadband providers in the country. As a result, many providers are now offering low-cost or free broadband service to households with students who did not previously have broadband access.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

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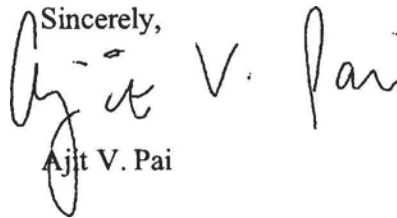
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

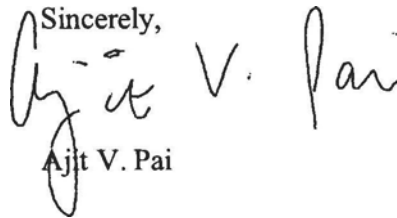
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

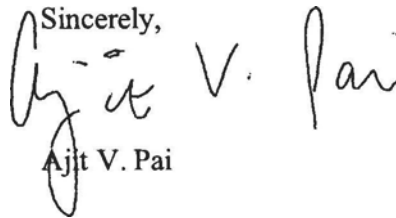
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

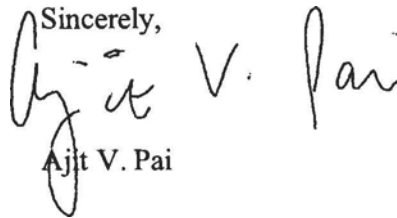
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
United States Senate  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

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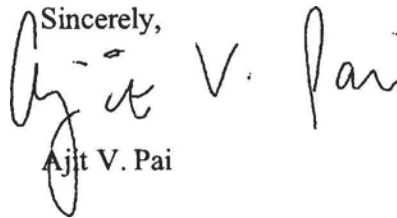
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Hirono:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

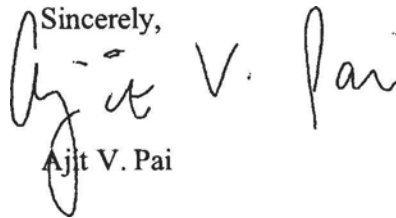
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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 Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

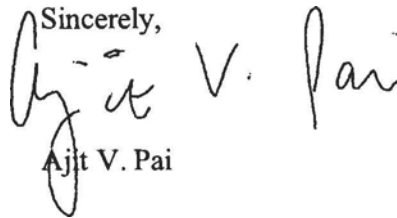
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Markey:

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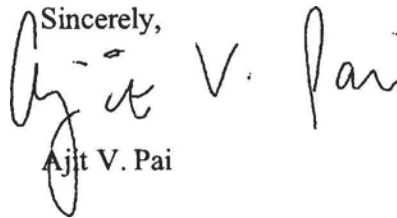
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June 12, 2020

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Senator Cortez Masto:

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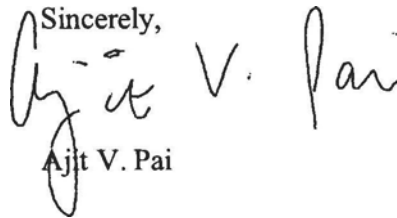
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Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

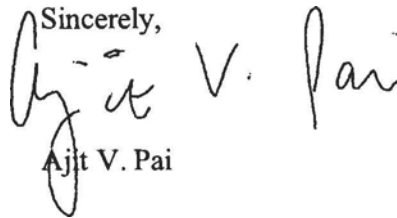
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Reed:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

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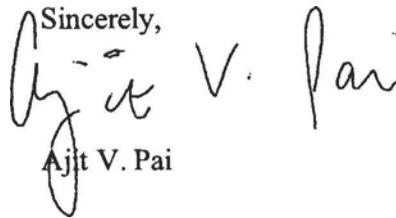
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

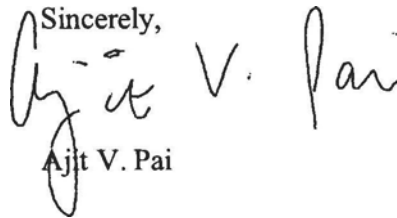
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

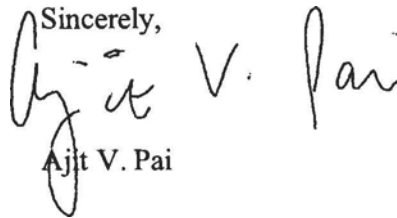
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to help students stay connected while they shift to online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Extended school closures due to COVID-19 have led to unprecedented disruption of K-12 education in this country. Schools have had to change the way they teach, and it is critical that parents and students stay connected so that they can participate in online learning from home during this crisis. But the law the FCC is duty-bound to administer poses a barrier: the Communications Act expressly limits the FCC's use of E-Rate program funding to broadband and other "services" to school "classrooms" and libraries.

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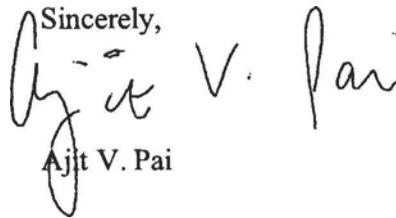
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 12, 2020

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

Dear Senator Wyden:

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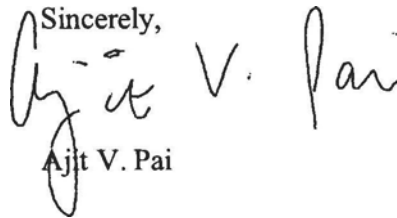
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