



For Immediate Release

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COMPTEL Supports FCC Lifeline Move to Broadband

“Job seeking without broadband access is like trying to breathe without lungs.”

WASHINGTON DC (Wednesday, September 30, 2015)—Today, COMPTEL filed reply comments with the Federal Communications Commission regarding the Commission’s Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to modernize the Lifeline program.

COMPTEL highlights the near-universal support for the Commission’s proposal to allow low-income consumers to use the current Lifeline subsidy for broadband Internet access service.

A link to the reply comments can be found [here](#).

In conjunction with this proceeding, Chip Pickering CEO of COMPTEL, released the following statement:

“COMPTEL applauds the FCC’s efforts to update the Lifeline program to better serve low-income Americans living in the digital age. The Commission should expeditiously proceed with its plan to include support for broadband service. Job seeking without broadband access is like trying to breathe without lungs.

“The central goal of the Lifeline program—providing communications services to low-income Americans—has not changed since the program began. However, in order for the program to continue to meet this goal, it must evolve to the changes that have taken place in America’s technological, education and employment environment.

“Specifically, the Lifeline program should take into account that consumers do not only need voice support, but they also need broadband support. The ‘homework gap’ underscores how lack of broadband access disadvantages students from low-income households.

“In addition to reforming the Lifeline program so that that low-income consumers are not excluded from the benefits of broadband and voice services, the FCC should reform the program so that competitive communications service providers are not excluded from the marketplace.

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About COMPTEL:

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive networks. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members’ interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, [visit www.comptel.org](http://www.comptel.org) or follow @COMPTEL on Twitter.