For Immediate Release
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COMPTEL Statement on Lifeline Action at the FCC

Washington, DC (June 18, 2015) -- Today the Federal Communications Commission has taken additional steps to reform the Lifeline Program and ensure that Lifeline funds are efficiently used and targeted to those low-income consumers most in need of assistance to maintain connectivity in the 21st Century. The following statement may be attributed to Chip Pickering, CEO, COMPTEL:

“We are pleased that the FCC has adopted long sought changes to the Lifeline rules that will help further minimize waste, fraud and abuse in the program, and is considering implementing additional changes to modernize the program. We are especially grateful for Commissioner Clyburn’s efforts to promote the use of the Lifeline program as a means of bridging the digital divide and ensuring that low-income consumers are able to apply their Lifeline subsidy to broadband, as well as voice service.

“Since she was Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on USF over five years ago, Commissioner Clyburn has worked diligently on strong reforms to protect the integrity of the program to ensure that low-income consumers can be connected. In particular, we appreciate her leadership on transferring responsibility for eligibility determinations from the providers to a disinterested third party. These reforms are critical to enable, what today, are essential services for the delivery of telemedicine and education to consumers. COMPTEL looks forward to continuing to work with the Commission as it addresses these important issues.”
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 or follow @COMPTEL on Twitter.