



The voice of mid-size communications companies

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ITTA RESPONDS TO LIFELINE USF AND PRIVACY ITEMS VOTED ON TODAY

(Washington) The following statement was released today by ITTA – The Voice of Mid-Size Communications Companies and may be attributed to Genny Morelli, President of ITTA:

Lifeline

“ITTA welcomes today’s decision by the FCC to take Lifeline eligibility decisions out of the hands of service providers and to establish a National Eligibility Verifier. This approach should help foreclose any remaining opportunities for fraud and abuse in the verification process and mitigate the costs and burdens of participation in the Lifeline program, particularly for smaller providers. We urge its speedy implementation. ITTA also supports the decision to provide a streamlined process for entry of new Lifeline providers. A streamlined entry process should spur greater provider participation which, in turn, should enhance the long-term viability of the program.

ITTA remains concerned, however, that expansion of the Lifeline program budget not come at the expense of other important federal universal service programs, particularly the program that is essential to the expansion of broadband service to consumers in the most rural, high-cost areas of the country. Long-overdue USF contribution reform could go a long way toward mitigating current pressures on the overall USF program budget. ITTA reiterates its call for the Commission to expeditiously tackle contribution reform.

Privacy

ITTA looks forward to participating in the consumer privacy rulemaking docket initiated by the Commission today. We will urge the Commission to adopt a flexible approach to privacy and data security that is consistent with the established and well-regarded FTC framework. That approach would provide consumers with consistent privacy protections and would avoid disparate requirements that could foreclose competition and innovation.”

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ITTA represents mid-size communications companies that provide a broad range of high quality wireline and wireless voice, broadband, and video services to residential and business customers in predominately rural areas across 45 states. For more information, please visit www.itta.us.