

September 29, 2021

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Education & Libraries Networks Coalition (EdLiNC), which is comprised of the leading K-12 public and private education associations and the American Library Association, respectfully urges you to nominate Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Acting Chair Jessica Rosenworcel to another term and to elevate her to the position of Chair. EdLiNC's constituent organizations believe that her vast telecommunications policy experience combined with the strong leadership skills that she has manifested throughout her career, but most especially during her time as Acting Chair, merit her becoming the Commission's Chair.

EdLiNC and all Americans are indebted to Acting Chair Rosenworcel for her staunch support and deft stewardship of the 20-year-old E-Rate program, which has allocated more than \$50 billion to provide robust broadband and Wi-Fi services to America's school classrooms and public libraries. From her earliest days working for former FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, through her service to Senators John D. Rockefeller, IV, lead author of the E-Rate program, and Daniel Inouye, to her current tenure on the Commission, Acting Chair Rosenworcel has helped protect the E-Rate program against those who sought to reduce it and helped modernize it by supporting major program changes that grew the program and ensured equitable distribution of funds.

Beyond E-Rate, Acting Chair Rosenworcel has been an outstanding visionary in the world of education technology. She was one of the first to recognize the growing student home Internet connectivity problem, coined the phrase "homework gap" to describe it, and worked actively to combat it. We have not forgotten her efforts to include homework gap provisions within the Commission's Lifeline order nor her championing of Wi-Fi on School Buses as a partial homework gap solution. Most significantly, her work in this area helped convince Congress to allocate significant funding to this priority, now called the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), in the American Rescue Plan Act. Since that Act's passage in March, Acting Chair Rosenworcel has managed to convince all four members of the Commission to adopt unanimously ECF's implementation rules, launched a successful initial application process that led to schools and libraries applying for more than 70% of available funds, and presided over the dissemination of those funds and the opening of a second application window. On her watch, more than 5.4 million deserving students, educators and library patrons will obtain home broadband connections and more than 9.1 million will receive educationally appropriate computing devices.

Finally, on a personal note, Acting Chair Rosenworcel has been a steadfast and trusted friend to our community. In each position that she has occupied, she has listened closely to EdLiNC's recommendations, spoken at our conferences and meetings, and made too many visits to count to schools and libraries that have benefitted and continue to benefit from E-Rate support. Over the years, our organizations have recognized her efforts in this space with their highest policy awards, including:

- 2013 State Educational Technology Directors Association Federal Policymaker of the Year Award
- 2014 Consortium for School Networking Award for Excellence in Public Service
- 2015 Committee for Education Funding Special Recognition Award
- 2017 National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training Public Policy Award
- 2021 Association of Education Service Agencies Congressional Service Award

Losing her deep expertise would be a bitter blow to the education and library community, and the educators, librarians, parents, and students that we represent.

Therefore, we urge you to move expeditiously to retain this tremendous public servant by nominating her to another term at the Commission and designating her as Chair, thereby formalizing a role that she has executed brilliantly for the past several months.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
American Library Association
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International
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 Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
State Educational Technology Directors Association