

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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COMMUNICATIONS EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COUNCIL

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MEETING

+ + + + +

MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 7, 2022

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The Council met via Videoconference,  
at 1:00 p.m. EST, Heather Gate, Chair, presiding.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

HEATHER GATE, Council Chair; Connected Nation

NICOL TURNER LEE, PhD, Council Vice Chair;  
Brookings Institution

SUSAN AU ALLEN, Council Vice Chair; US Pan Asian  
American Chamber of Commerce Education  
Foundation

CLAYTON BANKS, Silicon Harlem

MATTHEW BAUER, Wireless Research Center

CAROLINA BEASLEY, Beasley Media Group, LLC

ROBERT BRANSON, Multicultural Media Telecom and  
Internet Council

ROBERT BROOKS, WHUR-FM, Howard University

JOI CHANEY, National Urban League

MICHELE COBER, Verizon

MELODY SPANN COOPER, Midway Broadcasting  
Corporation

GRAHAM "SKIP" DILLARD, WQHT-FM/WBLS-FM New York  
City, MediaCo Inc.

SARAH KATE ELLIS, GLAAD

CECELIA GORDON, STARZ

DOMINIQUE HARRISON, PhD, Joint Center for  
Political and Economic Studies  
DAVID HONIG, JulGlo Productions, LLC  
JILL HOUGHTON, Disability:IN  
CHRIS JAMES, National Center for American Indian  
Enterprise Development  
BRODERICK JOHNSON, Comcast Corporation  
SHERMAN KIZART, Kizart Media Partners  
ROSA MENDOZA, ALLvanza  
AAMA NAHUJA, A Wonder Media Company  
LOUIS PERAERTZ, Wireless Internet Service  
Provider Association  
HENRY RIVERA, Representing Emma Bowen Foundation  
STEVEN ROBERTS, The Roberts Companies  
VICKIE ROBINSON, Microsoft  
BRIAN SCARPELLI, ACT/The App Association  
CHARLYN STANBERRY, National Association of  
Broadcasters  
JOCELYN TATE, Black Women's Roundtable, National  
Coalition on Black Civic Participation  
ANTONIO TIJERINO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation  
CHRISTOPHER WOOD, LGBT Technology Partnership &  
Institute

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT AND INCLUSION  
WORKING GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

LAURA BERROCAL, Charter Communications, Inc.  
JON GANT, PhD, North Carolina Central University;  
Independent Subject Matter Expert  
REBECCA GIBBONS, Office for Community Technology,  
City of Portland, Oregon

ANISA GREEN, AT&T

TSION TESFAYE, National Digital Inclusion  
Alliance

MATTHEW WOOD, Free Press

ADDITIONAL INNOVATION AND ACCESS WORKING GROUP  
MEMBERS PRESENT:

EDGAR CLASS, Wiley Rein LLP  
HOWIE HODGES, II, Centri Tech  
JENNIFER JACKSON, Stellar TV and Central City  
Productions  
LETICIA LATINO-VAN SPLUTEREN, Neptuno USA  
EVE LEWIS, City of Coconut Creek, Florida  
DIANNE LYNCH, PhD, Stephens College; Independent  
Subject Matter Expert  
ALICIA TAMBE, Meta

ADDITIONAL DIVERSITY AND EQUITY WORKING GROUP  
MEMBERS PRESENT:

JENNA ALSAYEGH, US Telecom  
FAITH BAUTISTA, National Diversity Coalition  
LILI GANGAS, Kapor Center  
ELLEN SCHNED, Strong Women Alliance  
CATHY SCHUBERT, MD, American Geriatrics Society

COUNCIL STAFF:

JAMILA BESS JOHNSON, Designated Federal Officer,  
CEDC; Media Bureau  
RASHANN DUVAL, Co-Deputy Designated Federal  
Officer, CEDC; Wireline Competition Bureau  
KEYLA HERNANDEZ-ULLOA, Co-Deputy Designated  
Federal Officer, CEDC; Consumer and  
Governmental Affairs Bureau  
AURELIE MATHIEU, Attorney Advisor, CEDC; Wireline  
Competition Bureau  
HOLLY SAURER, Chief, Media Bureau

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Adjournment

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (1:00 p.m.)

3 MS. SAURER: Good afternoon. Welcome  
4 to the November 7th meeting of the Communications  
5 Equity and Diversity Council of the Federal  
6 Communications Commission. At today's meeting,  
7 we will hear a presentation of the CEDC's Digital  
8 Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group on its  
9 findings and recommendations for states and  
10 localities to prevent digital discrimination by  
11 internet service providers.

12 Today's featured report represents  
13 more than ten months of research, interviews, and  
14 deliberations by a group of very dedicated  
15 professionals and experts. The members of this  
16 working group, along with representatives from  
17 the CEDC's other two working groups met several  
18 times each week to hear from experts, including  
19 state and local government officials, housing  
20 experts, community advocates, economists, and  
21 internet service providers. These meetings  
22 provided invaluable insights on helping create

1 equal access to digital services and products  
2 (audio interference).

3 On behalf of Chairwoman Rosenworcel,  
4 we want to thank each of the members of the CEDC  
5 for your tireless work on this report. I know it  
6 wasn't easy, but I and the Chairwoman appreciate  
7 all of your efforts. We especially want to thank  
8 Chair Heather Gates, Vice Chairs Dr. Nicol Turner  
9 Lee and Susan Au Allen, DEI Working Group Chair  
10 Dr. Dominique Harrison, Workstream Leads Joi  
11 Chaney and Dr. Jon Gant. We want to thank all of  
12 the members of the DEI Working Group for their  
13 commitment to this effort and for the  
14 collaboration to produce today's reports. I look  
15 forward to your presentation.

16 Now, we will hear from our Designated  
17 Federal Officer Jamila Bess-Johnson. Jamila,  
18 take it away.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Thank  
20 you, Holly. I want to say thank you to all of  
21 the CEDC members, working group members, and  
22 subject matter experts for joining today's

1 meeting. We have a short, but highly anticipated  
2 agenda today. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you,  
3 to the DEI Working Group for all of its diligent  
4 work for almost a full year in developing its  
5 report and recommendations on model policies and  
6 best practices to prevent digital discrimination  
7 by ISP's. We're really, really looking forward  
8 to hearing your report today.

9 Next, we will have welcome remarks  
10 from the CEDC's Co-Deputy Designated Officer  
11 Rashann Duvall. Rashann.

12 MS. DUVALL: Good afternoon and thank  
13 you, Jamila Bess. It is such an honor to be  
14 present at this meeting concerning the CEDC  
15 Digital Equity and Inclusion Working Groups  
16 Report on recommendations and best practices to  
17 prevent digital discrimination by internet  
18 service providers. I would like to extend a  
19 Tremendous thank you to the working group members  
20 and other members of the CEDC for their extensive  
21 work on this important task. In particular, I  
22 would like to acknowledge and express gratitude

1 to CEDC Chair, Heather Gate and her Vice-Chair Au  
2 Susan Allen and Dr. Nicol Turner Lee, Working  
3 Group Chair Dr. Dominique Harrison and the Work  
4 Stream Leads, Dr. Jon Gant and Joi Chaney for  
5 their tremendous guidance and leadership and the  
6 extensive effort on this report. I'm looking  
7 forward to today's presentation.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Rashann. And  
9 now we will hear from our Co-Deputy Designated  
10 Federal Officer, Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa. Keyla.

11 MS. HERNANDEZ-ULLOA: Good afternoon,  
12 everyone. I too echo everything that has been  
13 said before. This has been a tremendous effort  
14 and I congratulate everyone on their efforts to  
15 achieve this report. I'd like to thank Chair  
16 Heather Gate, Vice-Chair Nicol Turner Lee and  
17 Susan Au Allen. I'd like to thank you also, of  
18 course everyone that's worked from the DFO,  
19 Jamila-Bess Johnson, Rashann Duvall, and Aurelie  
20 Mathieu for all their works and efforts. I'm  
21 looking forward to learning more about this  
22 report. And I'm turning it back to you, Jamila.



1 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you so much,  
2 Keyla. And now we'll hear from our newest  
3 colleague who's been so instrumental to the  
4 administrative and support tasks that we've had  
5 to do on this report, Aurelie Mathieu, who's an  
6 attorney advisor in the Wireline Competition  
7 Bureau. Aurelie.

8 MS. MATHIEU: Good afternoon,  
9 everyone. My name is Aurelie Mathieu. And I'd  
10 like to echo the sentiments of Jamila, Rashann  
11 and Keyla. It's a pleasure to see this report  
12 come to fruition. It wouldn't be possible  
13 without the leadership of our Workstream Leads,  
14 Joi Chaney and Dr. Gant, our Working Group Leader  
15 Dr. Dominique Harrison, and our Chairs and Vice-  
16 Chairs, Heather Gate, Dr. Nicol Turner Lee, and  
17 Susan Au Allen. And I look forward to hearing  
18 about the recommendations today. Thank you for  
19 joining us. I'll pass it back to you, Jamila.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you so much,  
21 Aurelie. I really appreciate it. And now we  
22 turn the meeting over to our CEDC Chair, Heather

1 Gate, for her opening remarks. Good afternoon,  
2 Heather.

3 CHAIR GATE: Good afternoon, Jamila.  
4 Thank you so much, Holly for welcoming us and  
5 opening this meeting. Also, thanks to our  
6 distinguished, Designated Federal Officers,  
7 Jamila, Rashann, Keyla, and Aurelie.

8 I welcome the CEDC members to this  
9 important meeting. I welcome FCC staff and  
10 members of the public. I'm honored to join you  
11 for this important task of deliberating on our  
12 report on Recommendations and Best Practices to  
13 Prevent Digital Discrimination and Promoting  
14 Digital Equity. Thank you to Chairwoman  
15 Rosenworcel for trusting us with this important  
16 task and giving us more time on July 22 (audio  
17 interference). We took that additional time and  
18 we used it wisely.

19 As a truly diverse body of  
20 professionals, we understand what's at stake with  
21 this task. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,  
22 which tasks the FCC with making recommendations

1 to states and localities on preventing digital  
2 discriminations by ISP represents a momentous  
3 step towards bridging the digital divide and  
4 advancing equal access. Congress rightfully  
5 recognized that. In today's world, access to  
6 affordable and reliable highspeed broadband is  
7 essential for any person to fully participate in  
8 modern society in the United States.

9 The opportunity for the CEDC to offer  
10 recommendations is an important piece of the  
11 bigger puzzle that includes public comments and  
12 the work of the FCC's Digital Discrimination Task  
13 Force. I want to extend a large thank you to the  
14 entire Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working  
15 Group. Under the leadership of Dr. Dominique  
16 Harrison, they did a tremendous job in  
17 researching, interviewing experts, and  
18 participating in several meetings a week, and  
19 writing this exceptional report.

20 Thanks to Workstream Leads, Dr. Jon  
21 Gant and Joi Chaney for their leadership. A  
22 special shout-out to Dr. Nicol Turner Lee in

1 helping to write and edit the report. Again, I  
2 want to thank each and every one of the members  
3 of the Digital Empowerment Inclusion Working  
4 Group.

5           Lastly, but not least, I want to  
6 recognize by other Vice-Chair, Susan Au Allen for  
7 being a steadfast leader for this Council and  
8 always pushing with great passion for discussions  
9 and more products that will truly make a  
10 difference.

11           So I'm going to keep it short. Our  
12 agenda for today consists of one item and one  
13 item alone. And that is to deliberate and vote  
14 on Part 1 of our report by the Digital  
15 Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group. If you  
16 remember on July 22, we voted to adopt Part 2 and  
17 Part 3 that were presented by the Innovation and  
18 Access Working Group and the Diversity and Equity  
19 Working Groups led by Robert Brooks and Chris  
20 Wood respectfully. I'd like to thank that group.  
21 Although they're not going to be presenting  
22 today, I'd like to extend my gratitude for their

1 continued work. And I urge you all to stay tuned  
2 as they will be announcing and doing some  
3 exciting work over the next few months.

4 Without further ado, I'd like to  
5 invite my Vice-Chair Susan Allen to offer her  
6 opening comments.

7 VICE CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, Heather.  
8 This is the day I've been looking forward to.  
9 And before I say a few words about the  
10 hardworking group that brought this report into  
11 fruition, I want to thank of course the  
12 leadership at the FCC first with Chairwoman  
13 Jessica Rosenworcel and the entire commission,  
14 plus the woman who will never be fatigued, Jamila  
15 Bess Johnson and her wonderful team of Deputy  
16 Officers, Rashann Duvall, Keyla Hernandez-Ulloa,  
17 Aurelie Mathieu. Thank you so much for being the  
18 guiding light for all of us -- for all of these  
19 working groups that bring us to where we are  
20 today.

21 Heather, your patience and your  
22 counsel has been so appreciated. I did want to

1 say thank to you before Thanksgiving. Without  
2 your steady hand, together with the team at FCC,  
3 we may not be where we are today. But most of  
4 all, the credit goes to the working group led by  
5 Dr. Dominique Harrison and her able team, Dr.  
6 Gant and Joi Chaney, and the whole group of hard-  
7 working professionals and industry experts.

8 You discussed -- you fretted over big  
9 things, small things, minute details. You  
10 actually gave a give and take. You had your eye  
11 on the ball, on the mission. Today, we are here.  
12 So without further delay, I want to throw it back  
13 to Heather. And let's hear from all of you.  
14 Thank you for your hard work.

15 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Susan. I  
16 would like to go ahead and offer my apologies for  
17 Dr. Turner Lee. She's stuck in another meeting.  
18 But she and I will -- It will be the privilege to  
19 offer her the floor as soon as she's able to join  
20 us, so she can offer her opening comments.

21 And now, Jamila, are we ready to call  
22 the meeting to order? And then we will offer Dr.

1 Turner Lee the opportunity to offer her opening  
2 comments as soon as she's able to join us?

3 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, that would be fine.  
4 Would you like for me to conduct the roll now?

5 CHAIR GATE: Yes. Without much ado,  
6 I would therefore like to call to order the  
7 November 7, 2022 meeting of the Communications  
8 Equity and Diversity Council. And Jamila, if  
9 you'd like to take the honor of doing our roll  
10 call.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. So we'll start  
12 with CEDC Chairs and Vice-Chairs and then we'll  
13 move through each respective working group for  
14 members, working group members, and subject  
15 matter experts. So when you hear your name  
16 called, please feel free to turn on your camera  
17 and your mic and acknowledge that you're present  
18 for today's meeting. Thank you.

19 Okay. Chair Heather Gate.

20 CHAIR GATE: Present.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Susan Au Allen, Vice-  
22 Chair.

1 VICE CHAIR ALLEN: Present.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Nicol Turner  
3 Lee, Vice-Chair.

4 VICE CHAIR TURNER: I'm present by  
5 phone. I'm having some technical challenges, but  
6 I'm present by phone.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. All right.  
8 Now we're going to turn to the Digital  
9 Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group.  
10 Dominique Harrison, Chair.

11 DR. HARRISON: Present.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Clayton Banks.

13 MR. BANKS: I'm here.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Indeed you are. Robert  
15 Branson.

16 MR. BRANSON: Present.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Is Robert Branson here?

18 MR. BRANSON: Present.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 MR. BRANSON: Thank you.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Joi Chaney.

22 MS. CHANEY: Present.



1 MS. JOHNSON: Michele Cober.  
2 MS. COBER: Present.  
3 MS. JOHNSON: Sarah Kate Ellis.  
4 MS. ELLIS: Present.  
5 MS. JOHNSON: Rebecca Gibbons.  
6 MS. GIBBONS: Present.  
7 MS. JOHNSON: Chris James.  
8 MR. JAMES: Present.  
9 MS. JOHNSON: Broderick Johnson.  
10 MR. JOHNSON: Present.  
11 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Nicolaine  
12 Lazarre. Laura Berrocal.  
13 MS. BERROCAL: Present.  
14 MS. JOHNSON: Louis Peraertz.  
15 MR. PERAERTZ: Present.  
16 MS. JOHNSON: Vickie Robinson  
17 indicated that she would be on after 1:30, so  
18 we'll acknowledge her for the roll call when  
19 she's present. Matthew Wood.  
20 MR. WOOD: Here.  
21 MS. JOHNSON: Anisa Green.  
22 MS. GREEN: I'm here.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Hooman  
2 Hadayati.

3 PARTICIPANT: Here.

4 MS. JOHNSON: No. Hooman Hedayati.  
5 I'm going to mark Hooman as absent. I don't hear  
6 Hooman. Angela Siefer or Tsion Tesfaye.

7 MS. TESHAYE: Present.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. John C.  
9 Yang. Dr. Christopher Ali. Dr. Jon Gant.

10 DR. GANT: I'm present. Thank you.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Dr. Gooyong.  
12 All right. That completes the roll for the DEI  
13 Working Group.

14 (Audio interference.)

15 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, I will give her an  
16 opportunity for opening comments in a second.  
17 Jamila, just to confirm, we have a core to  
18 conduct this meeting.

19 MS. MENDOZA: Jamila, this is Rosa  
20 Mendoza. I didn't hear my name called, but I'm  
21 on the call.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Right. I haven't

1 completed the roll yet.

2 MS. MENDOZA: Okay.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Sorry. That completed  
4 the roll for the DEI Working Group. And now for  
5 the Innovation and Access Working Group. Robert  
6 Banks -- I mean Brooks. I'm sorry. Robert  
7 Brooks.

8 MR. BROOKS: Yes, I'm present.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. Raul  
10 Alarcon. Matthew Bauer.

11 MR. BAUER: Present. Hello, Jamila.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Hi, Matt.  
13 Caroline Beasley.

14 MS. BEASLEY: Here.

15 MS. JOHNSON: Edgar Class.

16 MR. CLASS: Present.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Cecelia Gordon.

18 MS. GORDON: Present.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. David Honig.

20 MR. HONIG: Present.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Chairman Kizart.

22 MR. KIZART: Present.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Henry  
2 Rivera.

3 MR. RIVERA: Yes, here.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Henry.  
5 Steven Roberts.

6 MR. ROBERTS: Present. Welcome,  
7 everybody.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Jocelyn Tate.

9 MS. TATE: Hello, present.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Barbara  
11 Ciara. Susan Corbett. Monica Desai or Alicia  
12 Tambay.

13 MS. TAMBE: Present.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Charles  
15 Harrell. Howie Hodges.

16 MR. HODGES: Present.

17 MS. JOHNSON: Jennifer Jackson.

18 MS. JACKSON: Present.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Leticia Latino-Van  
20 Spluteren.

21 MS. LATINO-VAN SPLUTEREN: Yes,  
22 present.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Eve Lewis.

2 MS. LEWIS: Present. Hello.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Hi. Dr. Dianne Lynch.

4 DR. LYNCH: Present.

5 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. All right.

6 That completes the roll for the Innovation and  
7 Access Working Group. And now to conclude, we're  
8 going to call the roll for the Diversity and  
9 Equity Working Group. Christopher Wood.

10 MR. WOOD: Present.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Melody Spann  
12 Cooper.

13 MS. SPANN: Present.

14 MS. JOHNSON: Skip Dillard.

15 MR. DILLARD: Present.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Jill Houghton.

17 MS. HOUGHTON: Present.

18 MS. JOHNSON: Dr. Ronald Johnson.

19 Rosa Mendoza.

20 MS. MENDOZA: Present.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Aama Nahjua.

22 MS. NAHJUA: Present.

1 MS. JOHNSON: Brian Scarpelli.

2 MR. SCARPELLI: I am present.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Charlyn  
4 Stanberry.

5 MS. STANBERRY: Present.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Antonio Tijerino. Jim  
7 Winston. Okay. Jenna Alsayegh.

8 MS. ALSAYEGH: Present.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Joon Bang. Faith  
10 Bautista.

11 MS. BAUTISTA: Present.

12 MS. JOHNSON: Brigitte Daniel Corbin.  
13 Lili Gangas. Otto Padron. Randi Parker. Ellen  
14 Schned.

15 MS. SCHNED: Present.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Dr. Cathy Schubert.

17 DR. SCHUBERT: Present.

18 MS. JOHNSON: And Mona Thompson.

19 Madam Chair, that concludes the roll. You have a  
20 quorum for today's meeting.

21 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Jamila. Thank  
22 you so much. And so before we move on to our

1 agenda, I would like to welcome the most  
2 hardworking (audio interference) practitioner in  
3 the country. Yes, I'm often talking to Nicol  
4 while she's navigating two or three meetings and  
5 writing a book and doing everything that she  
6 does. So Nicol, if you'd like to take a second  
7 and do your opening comments for us, then we'll  
8 move on to the agenda.

9 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Perfect. Can you  
10 hear me?

11 CHAIR GATE: There's a little bit of  
12 --

13 (Audio interference.)

14 VICE CHAIR TURNER: No one can hear me  
15 now?

16 CHAIR GATE: We can hear you. It's a  
17 little bit far -- Do you want to use your phone  
18 audio? Do you still have your phone audio?

19 VICE CHAIR TURNER: No. (Audio  
20 interference).

21 CHAIR GATE: We can hear you well  
22 enough for you to do your opening comments.

1                   VICE CHAIR TURNER: Are you sure I'm  
2 not an echo?

3                   CHAIR GATE: You are echoing.

4                   VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yeah. Madam,  
5 Chair, proceed with the meeting. I'll come back  
6 in at the end if you don't mind because I'm  
7 having technical issues.

8                   MS. MATHIEU: It's okay. I had to  
9 mute some people.

10                  VICE CHAIR TURNER: Oh, okay. Okay,  
11 thank you. All right. And you can hear me clear  
12 right now. Right?

13                  CHAIR GATE: Yes.

14                  MS. JOHNSON: Just a little louder.

15                  VICE CHAIR TURNER: Okay. I'll talk  
16 loud. Well thank you, Heather, Jamila-Bess,  
17 Rashann, Keyla, Aurelie, and all of you that  
18 joined this call. Today is a long awaited day  
19 due to the hard work of the DEI Working Group  
20 under the Chairwomanship of Dominique Harrison --  
21 Dr. Harrison. And more importantly, for the  
22 millions of Americans that have to rely upon an



1 internet connection for their lifeline. So we  
2 stand before everybody and I'm excited for this  
3 day because obviously this work is very important  
4 to myself, Susan, and Heather.

5 As the statute suggests, the FCC has  
6 been charged with defining digital  
7 discrimination. And obviously from the work of  
8 the DEI Committee, there's still more work that  
9 needs to be undertaken. But at least, the  
10 framework is being introduced at this meeting to  
11 allow us for states and localities to have a  
12 start and some guidance. Monies have been  
13 allocated, so the timing could not be more  
14 perfect. And I commend this group for their  
15 earnest and hardworking attention to this task  
16 and to the FCC for their patience with us as a  
17 committee and as for people who care about this  
18 issue of discrimination.

19 It is no secret that we are on the eve  
20 of another fundamental inalienable right of  
21 voting. And when there is discrimination when it  
22 comes to voting, it is not much different than

1 restricting, limiting, or for closing or  
2 opportunities for people to exercise a say in our  
3 democracy. And the same is true for digital  
4 access, Madam Chairwoman and Vice Chairwoman and  
5 all of you on this call. Without universal  
6 access to broadband, we essentially encroach upon  
7 the civil rights of people, whether in businesses  
8 and people's ability to access fundamental  
9 services like educational, employment,  
10 healthcare, entrepreneurship.

11 And so that is why I actually just  
12 leave these remarks, both on the timeliness of  
13 this meeting, but more importantly, the diligence  
14 of this committee that we started important work.  
15 And what this looks like in the future will only  
16 change. But one thing is clear, that the leaders  
17 that are represented on this group represent the  
18 constituents that are going to be impacted. And  
19 so I just say to all of you again, I commend you  
20 for your hard work. I commend you for your  
21 service. And I look forward to presenting this  
22 report from the DEI Working Group. And I look

1 forward to all of us getting to work. Because  
2 again, our job with discrimination is never done.  
3 Our inalienable rights to participate in  
4 democracy are never done. But somebody's got to  
5 do the hard work. And that was all of us.

6 So thank you again, Madam Chairwoman  
7 for allowing me this opportunity in spite of my  
8 technical challenges. It's like having holes in  
9 your shoes when you're trying to walk to the  
10 poles. But guess what? I'm going to and figure  
11 this out before the end of the meeting. So I  
12 appreciate the opportunity to work (audio  
13 interference).

14 CHAIR GATE: Thank you so much, Nicol.  
15 Your technical difficulties really help to  
16 highlight the importance of technology in just  
17 being able to communicate and drive the work that  
18 we're doing along. And so thank you again for  
19 your impassioned call to action. We always  
20 welcome your voice in these -- and your expertise  
21 in these discussions.

22 And now I would like to go ahead and

1 hand over the floor to the Digital Empowered  
2 Inclusion Working Group led by Dr. Harrison. Dr.  
3 Harrison, thank you. Feel free to take the floor  
4 and present Part 1 of the report for us.

5 DR. HARRISON: Thank you so much,  
6 Madam Chair. Good afternoon, everyone. I want  
7 to first give a thank you to Chairwoman  
8 Rosenworcel for her commitment to tackling the  
9 issue of digital discrimination. Digital  
10 discrimination is an important topic to cover  
11 given the material consequences that communities  
12 face in their adoption of broadband, the  
13 affordability of broadband services, and the  
14 actual use of the technology.

15 One of the objectives of the Digital  
16 Empowerment Inclusion Working Group is to provide  
17 recommendations for reducing and removing  
18 regulatory barriers to the equitable deployment  
19 of and investment in broadband access and  
20 adoption in all communities, including tribal,  
21 rural, and historically marginalized communities.  
22 Given this goal and the role that many of us play

1 in this space, developing solutions that lead to  
2 more equitable outcomes for communities of color  
3 should be a priority for all leaders as we work  
4 together towards closing the digital divide.

5 I want to thank our CEDC Chair and  
6 Vice-Chairs for their leadership and support. I  
7 also want to thank the FCC Designated Federal  
8 Officers for their encouragement and stewardship  
9 along the way in the development of this report.  
10 Today I am pleased to share the final report of  
11 the DEI Working Group. I am so appreciative,  
12 thankful, and proud of all the work our group  
13 undertook to complete this task. And I want to  
14 thank each member for their participation,  
15 guidance, and support.

16 Next Slide. Thank you to Dr.  
17 Christopher Ali, representing Penn State  
18 University, Clayton Banks from Silicon Harlem,  
19 Robert Branson from the Multicultural Media,  
20 Telecom, and Internet Council, Joi Chaney from  
21 National Urban League, Michele Cober from  
22 Verizon, Sarah Kate Ellis from GLAAD, Matt Wood

1 from Free Press, formerly Leo Fitzpatrick, Dr.  
2 Jon Gant representing North Carolina Central  
3 University, Anisa Green, AT&T, Chris James from  
4 the National Center for American-Indian  
5 Enterprise Development, Dr. Gooyong Kim, Cheney  
6 University of Pennsylvania, Nicole Lazarre from  
7 Charter Communications, Laura Berrocal who served  
8 as alternate, Louis Peraertz with Wireless  
9 Internet Service Providers Association, Vicki  
10 Robinson from Microsoft, Angela Siefer for  
11 National Digital Inclusion Alliance, including  
12 Tsion Tesfaye who was an alternate. Hooman  
13 Hedayati, Communications Workers of America,  
14 formerly Brian Thorn, John C. Yang from the  
15 Asian-Americans Advancing Justice, and lastly,  
16 Roderick Johnson from Comcast Corporation where  
17 Antonio Williams serves as an alternate.

18 Next slide. The passing of the  
19 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act made the  
20 largest federal investment into universal  
21 broadband access in our history by providing  
22 critical resources to increase access to the

1 technology. The IIJA also presents an  
2 unprecedented opportunity to address the issue of  
3 digital discrimination, an issue that many  
4 communities have long spoken about. With our  
5 working groups objectives in mind and the  
6 directives set within the Infrastructure Act, our  
7 group was given the immediate task to address  
8 these issues.

9           The IIJA Section 60506 of the Act  
10 states that subscribers should benefit from equal  
11 access to broadband internet access service  
12 within the service area of a provider of such  
13 service. The term "equal access" for purposes of  
14 this section means the equal opportunity to  
15 subscribe to an offered service that provides  
16 comparable speeds, capacities, latency, and other  
17 quality of service metrics in a given area by  
18 comparable terms and conditions.

19           Next slide. The Act also goes on to  
20 say that no later than two years after the date  
21 of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall  
22 adopt final rules to facilitate equal access to

1 broadband internet access service, taking into  
2 account the issue of technical and economic  
3 feasibility presented by that objective,  
4 including preventing digital discrimination of  
5 access based on income level, race, ethnicity,  
6 color, religion, or national origin. And  
7 identifying necessary steps for the Commission to  
8 take to eliminate discrimination described in  
9 Paragraph 1.

10                   The Commission and the Attorney  
11 General shall ensure that federal policies  
12 promote equal access to robust broadband internet  
13 access service by prohibiting deployment  
14 discrimination based on the income level of an  
15 area, the predominant race or ethnicity  
16 composition of an area, or other factors the  
17 Commission determines to be relevant based on the  
18 finding in the record developed from the rule  
19 making under Subsection B.

20                   Next slide. The legislation then  
21 states that the FCC shall develop model policies  
22 and best practices that can be adopted by states



1 and localities to ensure that broadband internet  
2 access service providers do not engage in digital  
3 discrimination. This leads us to the bulk of the  
4 work that the DEI Working Group undertook over  
5 the course of ten months.

6 Next slide. One of the inaugural  
7 urgent tasks of the CEDC was to present  
8 recommendations to the Commission on the public  
9 policies, programs, and other strategic  
10 initiatives to advance equity in the provision of  
11 and access to digital communication services and  
12 products for all people of the United States  
13 without discrimination on the basis of race,  
14 color, religion, national origin, sex, or  
15 disability.

16 The particular request of the  
17 Commission in December 2021 was to examine issues  
18 around lack of access to broadband services and  
19 providers. Two, help better understand the  
20 reasons and causes for such lack of access. And  
21 three, offer recommendations for addressing  
22 digital discrimination and other barriers that

1 impact equitable access to the emerging  
2 technology in the U.S., including its  
3 territories, particularly in communities that  
4 remain unserved, underserved, or underconnected.

5 Next slide. While many members of the  
6 DEI Working Group played an essential part in  
7 getting us to the finish line on this report,  
8 there was a specific group of members in our  
9 working group that provided their time, effort,  
10 and expertise to complete the report. And I want  
11 to say thank you to each one of them for their  
12 commitment to this important work. As we know,  
13 it was no easy feat. Thank you to our co-leads  
14 who led the group, Dr. Jon Gant and Joi Chaney.

15 Today, we will hear from Nicol Lee of  
16 Workstream 1 of the DEI Working on an in-depth  
17 overview of our report, entitled "Recommendations  
18 and Best Practices to Prevent Digital  
19 Discrimination and Promote Digital Equity." And  
20 with that said, I will turn it over to Joi Chaney  
21 to come on camera. Thank you.

22 MS. CHANEY: Thank you so much, Dr.

1 Harrison. You have been a fantastic leader. And  
2 Dr. Harrison did a lot of the writing on this  
3 project, which we talk about in a few minutes.

4 Can you go back to the previous slide?

5 Before we go on, one of the things that Dr. Gant  
6 who will be on in a moment, as well as Dr.  
7 Harrison and I and all of the CEDC leadership  
8 wanted to do was to begin by talking about our  
9 process and how we did this work. Again, my name  
10 is Joi Chaney and I am a representative of the  
11 National Urban League. And we are so proud of  
12 not only the IIJA, which we helped to make sure  
13 was passed, but also the work of this group and  
14 of the FCC and we want to thank the Chairwoman.

15 When we began this model policy and  
16 best practices to prevent civil discrimination,  
17 workstream work, we had a core group of folks.  
18 So we have a complete Digital Empowerment and  
19 Inclusion Workgroup, but a small group of us  
20 began on the Workstream 1. And I want to  
21 identify those folks right now because we began  
22 our work almost, not quite a year or so ago, but

1 many, many months and they deserve that  
2 recognition.

3           So Robert, we already did their  
4 affiliations, so let me just list their names.  
5 Robert Branson, Michel Cober, Lili Gangas -- all  
6 right, if everyone can mute as they join. Great.  
7 Robert Branson, Michele Cober, Lili Gangas who  
8 was an ad hoc member from the Diversity and  
9 Equity Working Group, Anna Gomez, an ad hoc  
10 member as well from the Innovation and Access  
11 Working Group, Anisa Green, Nicolaine Lazarre,  
12 Louis Peraertz -- and I apologize if I  
13 mispronounce anyone's name -- Angela Siefer who  
14 is represented by Tsion, which we just identified  
15 before, Brian Thorn, who was replaced ultimately  
16 by Hooman when Brian left the organization,  
17 Broderick Johnson, who was represented ably by  
18 Tony Williams, and Dr. Fallon Wilson who's  
19 formerly an ad hoc member of the Diversity and  
20 Equity Working Group.

21           And when you hear us say an "ad hoc  
22 member", that meant that they were joining from

1 another workstream within the CEDC. We thought  
2 it was very important to make sure that this  
3 particular group -- we understood that not all of  
4 the expertise that we wanted had to be on this  
5 group all the time and that we had to borrow from  
6 other parts of the CEDC and of course of the  
7 Digital Empowerment Inclusion Working Group. And  
8 to that end, I would be remiss without echoing  
9 that ultimately this became a group effort of the  
10 entire DEI Working Group, not just this small  
11 group. But we did begin several months ago with  
12 meeting a couple of times a week.

13           And if we do the next slide, I think  
14 we can go into more detail. Next slide.  
15 Wonderful. So we met a couple of times a week.  
16 Mondays and sometimes Tuesdays, a few times on  
17 Thursdays, and ultimately always on Fridays. So  
18 anywhere from two to four times a week, we would  
19 get together to begin this work. We started --  
20 As we identified in the first meeting when we  
21 first outlined how we were going to do this work,  
22 we said we wanted to do research and information

1 gathering. So much has been said out there about  
2 digital discrimination from many different  
3 sources and from other perspective that we knew  
4 would be critical to our work. We did a lot of  
5 research and information gathering and a lot of  
6 background research from published material, a  
7 lot of documented history of digital  
8 discrimination and the digital divide.

9 We got success stories from states and  
10 localities. And stories that were not a success.  
11 Places where we knew that we wanted to do better.  
12 We inquired about business models of internet  
13 networks and infrastructure because we know that  
14 plays a role. And we examined other  
15 discrimination challenges and discrimination from  
16 other parts of our American experience. In  
17 total, we conducted in addition to our research  
18 review, over 30 interviews. And sometimes those  
19 interviews would range between 45 minutes to  
20 almost an hour. So it was a considerable  
21 investment of time of not just the workstream,  
22 but all of the DEI working group -- committee

1 members.

2 After that, we engaged in significant  
3 deliberation, reflection, and synthesis. Just  
4 what it says here. We wanted, you know, in those  
5 interviews to make sure that we were hearing from  
6 a range of voices. So while we are not listing,  
7 you know, the folks that we've interviewed by  
8 name, we give you the categories.

9 We wanted to hear from digital  
10 inclusion and public interest technology  
11 advocates, civil rights organizations like the  
12 National Urban League and so many others who come  
13 from a range of perspectives; racial and ethnic,  
14 gender, disability, age, among others.  
15 Community-based advocates, community-anchor  
16 institutions. Right? Internet service providers  
17 -- Of course, we had internet service providers  
18 on the -- on the committee itself. Minority  
19 internet service providers. Right? So not just  
20 large ISPs. We wanted some smaller ones as well.  
21 State and locality officials, housing advocates,  
22 health equity advocates, educators and academics,

1 faith-based institutions, economists, policy  
2 analysts, housing and civil rights bar,  
3 representatives in social service providers.

4 Now look, if we didn't interview,  
5 right, the person in a live interview, we made  
6 sure we were hearing from perspectives through  
7 some of the research that we read. And we had a  
8 dynamic process.

9 Next slide. Next slide. Great. We  
10 had a dynamic process. We reviewed research. We  
11 conducted interviews. We synthesized this  
12 information. And we spent a lot of time on  
13 deliberation. So our process when we were doing  
14 our research reviews or conducting our  
15 interviews, if we found -- One of the things we  
16 would always ask -- and I know in a second -- I  
17 believe the next slide lists our questions that  
18 we asked -- our interview questions. Let's try  
19 that.

20 Next slide. One of things we always  
21 wanted to know is what else we should be doing.  
22 So one of the things that we did when I say it



1 was dynamic, if we found that we were lacking in  
2 a perspective, we were not afraid to extend the  
3 time and make sure we added that person, added  
4 that voice, added that perspective. And I think  
5 it really made for a thorough process and a rich  
6 experience. And I know Dr. Gant will go into  
7 more details about the results. But it led -- it  
8 came from the foundation of it where these  
9 interviews -- the interview questions and all of  
10 the people who contributed to the process.

11 So the questions that we started off  
12 with -- and almost every interviewee got this  
13 question was how to define digital  
14 discrimination? How to define digital redlining  
15 if that was not a term that they used already.  
16 We wanted to know did they use that term or not?  
17 How do constituents experience and how are they  
18 impacted by digital discrimination? We wanted to  
19 make sure we had not lost the human touch. How  
20 it impacts people on the ground. What efforts  
21 have they or their employees or organizations  
22 undertaken to address digital discrimination? We

1 wanted to know what the community was doing to  
2 combat perceived discrimination or in fact real  
3 discrimination.

4           What does digital equal access look  
5 like? Because it's not so much just about  
6 combating discrimination. We wanted to  
7 affirmatively say what's the world that we want  
8 to see? What would make the biggest difference  
9 in advancing digital equal access? So if you had  
10 a magic wand, what would you do in order to  
11 ensure digital equal access? What are the  
12 economic and regulatory considerations that  
13 incentivize private investment? We know that,  
14 that is a question that of course has to be  
15 answered. And we exist in the real world, not a  
16 fantasy one. So we understand that the answers  
17 to those questions were important.

18           And we wanted to ask those in industry  
19 and those outside of industry, what  
20 considerations incentivized private investment?  
21 And then finally like I said, we always wanted to  
22 know what else should we be looking at? Who else

1 should we be talking to?

2           Next slide. So the result, I think  
3 was a solid one. Now let me go on and say this.  
4 We spent a lot of time on deliberation. I think  
5 you all know that. We got the extended time.  
6 And we want to thank the FCC and our Chairs for  
7 allowing us to do that. We had a very big  
8 committee, a very robust committee. We engaged  
9 in a lot of conversation back and forth.  
10 Agreement and disagreement alike took place.  
11 Please mute. Thank you. Agreement and  
12 disagreement took place, but ultimately we were  
13 able to come to a great deal of consensus. And  
14 not just consensus, real solution, real best  
15 practices, real advice for those who are doing  
16 this work on the ground.

17           Our report is outlined as followed.  
18 We have a background, a narrative on digital  
19 discrimination that, you know, echoes what we've  
20 been hearing in our interviews. We have  
21 recommendations -- also the echoes, what we were  
22 hearing in our interviews and our research for

1 model policies for best practices for best  
2 practices for states and localities to prevent  
3 discrimination by ISP's. And then finally, our  
4 recommendations for next steps, what people  
5 should be doing in order to address these issues.

6 And so with that, Dr. Gant, who I want  
7 to take a personal privilege to say thank you for  
8 the work you did. I led a lot of the interviews.  
9 Dr. Gant and Dr. Harrison led almost exclusively  
10 the writing part, along with a broader working  
11 group weighing in every day, always editing.  
12 Almost every single person here wrote. Almost  
13 every single person here on our working group  
14 edited. And so I want to thank them for their  
15 leadership and everyone for their input. With  
16 that, Dr. Gant.

17 DR. GANT: Well thank you very much,  
18 Joi. And it was a pleasure working with you as  
19 co-leads on this very important task. And I  
20 certainly want to thank the Chairwoman for her  
21 trusting us with this work, our leads as well,  
22 and particularly, Dr. Dominique Harrison, and of

1 course everyone -- you all that were intricately  
2 involved with all aspects of this report and so  
3 forth. And I also want to take a point of  
4 personal privilege here that it is just awesome  
5 that we have reached this very particular point  
6 here. The extra time has been extremely helpful  
7 to go deeper into the deliberations and so forth.

8 And I'm also excited because I serve  
9 as an independent subject matter expert. And as  
10 many of you know, I'm a Professor and Dean at  
11 North Carolina Central University. And it's been  
12 an awesome weekend here for us as we've enjoyed  
13 our homecoming. And we had the group opportunity  
14 of seeing barbecue all across our campus and the  
15 smell of Howard Bison coming from the football  
16 field which is meant to be a very friendly joke  
17 to all of my colleagues that are from Howard  
18 University as well too and played. And we  
19 enjoyed having you here for the homecoming game.  
20 So, thank you and we won.

21 I just had to throw that in there  
22 because a part of what's happened throughout this

1 process is that we have really -- while we have  
2 different perspectives, we've really come  
3 together in a very respectful way working  
4 together with colleagues and so forth and a  
5 friendship has evolved from there.

6 But I do want to really share some  
7 very important information and insight that we've  
8 gained from these important interviews. And I'll  
9 share some findings from the interviews. I'll  
10 walk through some of the model policies and best  
11 practices and recommendations around digital  
12 discrimination, and similar ones on digital  
13 equity. And looking at our time, I'll try and  
14 keep about roughly seven to ten minutes on each.  
15 I'm not going to be going into a lot of detail  
16 for all of them as well too, which will give us  
17 plenty of time for discussion at the end.

18 So there are some -- There are a  
19 number of very important findings from these  
20 interviews. As Joi explained, the interviews  
21 gave us a lot of insight from multiple  
22 perspectives. And I just want to walk through

1 some of these to really show how these interviews  
2 have helped inform the recommendations that we  
3 are making today as well in this report.

4 The first is that tackling the digital  
5 divide is both urgent and imperative. And  
6 certainly -- and even in our opening comments  
7 today, as Dr. Nicole Turner Lee so eloquently  
8 brought up and others have brought up how there's  
9 this fierce urgency of now in trying to deal with  
10 this particular issue. And so we've heard that  
11 as a common theme through many of our interviews  
12 as well too.

13 The other thing that we've learned and  
14 really have considered greatly is the extent to  
15 which digital discrimination can appear in  
16 multiple context. This is very important for us  
17 to understand because it's not a cut and dry type  
18 of issue. In fact, it continues to be defined in  
19 different experiences and different context. We  
20 know that -- We looked at, you know, the  
21 understanding from the American Disabilities Act  
22 and how it was defined, financial services. You

1 know, some important studies on our financial  
2 services have really helped inform our  
3 understanding. When we look at the extent of  
4 algorithms, which are under scrutiny and really  
5 driving and contributing to what looked like  
6 discriminatory outcomes as well.

7 And then the meaning and the impact of  
8 digital context itself is very complex as our  
9 society evolves in how we are using computers and  
10 so forth. And I hear an open mic, so if all of  
11 us could please mute, that would be really great  
12 as well. Just a second. I've got the power to  
13 mute here. Let's see. Just a second. Can I get  
14 some help on whoever's driving? All right, thank  
15 you.

16 Thirdly, the Commission has some  
17 working definitions of discrimination on the  
18 record. And we've also contributed some  
19 additional definitions that have been available  
20 through our interviews to help understand digital  
21 discrimination and digital redlining.

22 We considered published definitions of



1 digital redlining. We've looked at even former  
2 FCC Chairman Pai, you know, defined digital  
3 redlining as the underinvestment in broadband  
4 networks and so forth. And these responses have  
5 been really helpful for us to really contribute  
6 to the broader task of defining digital redlining  
7 and digital discrimination. And we've included  
8 those contributions in this report as well.

9 Fourth, we also wrestled with the very  
10 difficult issue of trying to understand the  
11 intent for digital discrimination. And really  
12 concluded that it certainly needs to be further  
13 examined. In our report itself, our interview is  
14 NDI Working Group members offered diverging  
15 perspectives on the foundational matter of  
16 whether digital discriminatory impact as opposed  
17 to discriminatory intent should be an evaluation  
18 by which digital discrimination can be  
19 ascertained. And in our report, we did not adopt  
20 either framework. We did a lot to understand  
21 both perspectives and we presented both  
22 perspectives, but we did not adopt either

1 framework. And so that's a very important point  
2 that we've gained through these interviews.

3           The fifth point is that broadband  
4 adoption may drive outcome differences from  
5 vulnerable populations. When you look at this,  
6 especially when you get down to the details of  
7 looking at what drives discrimination. You know,  
8 especially if you're looking at outcomes and so  
9 forth, it's often hard to really try and  
10 ascertain and untangle this very complex process.  
11 And so we wanted to be clear that some of our  
12 interviewers shared information that digital  
13 discrimination may contribute to disparities in  
14 broadband adoption and the use of technologies --  
15 digital technology, which may, you know, drive  
16 the digital divide.

17           However, we also have other  
18 interviewers that conveyed important observations  
19 that it may not be accurate to simply look at the  
20 differences in adoption data and assume the  
21 disparity is based on race, gender, income, and  
22 others are digital discrimination as well. And

1 so this is the very important part of a  
2 contribution that we've made here in trying to  
3 help sort that out as well.

4 Sixthly, broadband deployment  
5 decisions may have unintended negative  
6 consequences. As expressed in the legislation,  
7 it was very important for us to dig in and try to  
8 understand those economic and technical  
9 feasibility issues about connecting everybody to  
10 broadband. You know, we have to consider the  
11 extent to which -- we would consider location,  
12 topology, the cost of trying to reach and so  
13 forth in driving broadband adoption decisions.  
14 And so we considered a lot of great information  
15 from various interviews to really give us a  
16 greater understanding about those decisions so we  
17 could really be able to provide additional  
18 information about the economic feasibility side  
19 of this issue as well. And there are times where  
20 there are very legitimate situations where that  
21 feasibility is hard to reach everybody and so  
22 forth. And so it's a very important

1 consideration in our work as well.

2           Then seventh, the consideration around  
3 franchise agreements. There's a well-established  
4 long practice of local governments and state  
5 governments using franchise agreements as a way  
6 of governing the deployment of our communication  
7 network infrastructure in the United States,  
8 particularly locally and also governed through  
9 the Federal Cable Act. And in our interviews, we  
10 came to the point from hearing from our experts  
11 that franchise agreements were seen as a way of  
12 holding cable companies accountable for service  
13 quality, tracking customer complaints, built-out  
14 requirements, and so forth. And the question  
15 that we continue to ask is to what extent are  
16 these franchise agreements an effective mechanism  
17 for ensuring that deployment is happening in an  
18 equitable fashion as well? It also raises the  
19 important understanding about the construction  
20 process, access to right-of-ways, access to  
21 facilities, and that kind of thing too. So those  
22 were some of the areas that we covered here in

1 terms of what we found in some of the -- from the  
2 interviews themselves.

3 Now we'll transition here to the next  
4 slide and we'll look at model policies and best  
5 practices. And these are informed through these  
6 interviews and we'll walk through each of these.  
7 The first one -- recommendation is that the  
8 working group recommends that through assessment  
9 processing, state and local leaders should seek  
10 to identify the current broadband needs of their  
11 community. So in doing so, state and local  
12 leaders should be part of the process to help  
13 develop, implement, and make publically available  
14 periodic broadband equity assessment and  
15 partnership of ISP's, community and local  
16 stakeholders.

17 We feel that these assessments are a  
18 way of really trying to understand what broadband  
19 service is currently available. Who has reliable  
20 and consistent highspeed broadband service at  
21 home? And other issues around the cost of  
22 broadband services and the quality of broadband

1 services in communities as well. We think that  
2 it's important that broadband equity assessment  
3 data help identify those unserved and underserved  
4 areas and also be used as a means to help direct  
5 funds and infrastructure towards those areas to  
6 meet and support deployment as well.

7 Secondly, we recommend that there  
8 should be effort to facilitate greater awareness  
9 and information sharing among multiple dwelling  
10 unit owners. Multiple dwelling units are a  
11 special case where ISP's and other, you know,  
12 broadband providers work closely with those  
13 multiple dwelling units to make sure that  
14 everybody in those units have access to broadband  
15 and so forth.

16 And so our Committee learned from the  
17 interviews and recommend that state and locality  
18 should raise awareness of the FCC rules regarding  
19 multiple tenant environments or multiple dwelling  
20 units and consider ways to facilitate information  
21 sharing in this domain to the owners to really  
22 help inform decision making process when

1 considering the conditions to reach everybody as  
2 they enter into agreements with the internet  
3 service providers. There's fear here of trying  
4 to help promote greater competition and choice,  
5 even in multiple dwelling units as well. And so  
6 we offer a recommendation to address that  
7 particular issue.

8 Thirdly, we recommend identifying  
9 local opportunities that could be used to  
10 incentivize equitable deployment. State and  
11 localities should in collaboration with ISP's,  
12 community organizations, consumer advocates, and  
13 others to identify and pursue opportunities to  
14 incentivize these collaborative approaches. We  
15 should look at rules -- to help state and  
16 localities look at rules around dig once,  
17 permitting requirements, and other activities to  
18 really facilitate equitable broadband deployment.

19 Next slide please. Next slide. Thank  
20 you. Fourth, we offer recommendation to engage  
21 where permissible under state and federal law and  
22 the management of public right-of-ways to avert

1 discriminatory behavior that may result or  
2 sustain digital discrimination or redlining.  
3 When you think of the build-out process, there  
4 are many agreements around the use of right-of-  
5 ways. And these right-of-ways -- these agreement  
6 should reflect that working in those right-of-  
7 ways is a privilege of using public assets. And  
8 it also comes with an obligation to provide  
9 benefits to the public, especially to ensure that  
10 everybody in a community has equal access to  
11 broadband subject to the limitations around the  
12 economic and technological feasibility of making  
13 this type of deployment. We recommend that  
14 states should examine their statutes and policies  
15 to ensure broadband providers benefitting from  
16 public assets provide appropriate public  
17 benefits, especially to address potential digital  
18 discrimination.

19 Fifth, convene regular meetings of  
20 broadband providers and stakeholders, including  
21 community anchors, public interest groups,  
22 community advocates, faith-based institutions and



1 others to really evaluate the extent to which  
2 areas and households are unserved or underserved  
3 with competitive and quality broadband options.  
4 You do see a theme here where many of our  
5 recommendations are very much about bringing  
6 multiple stakeholders together to really work in  
7 a communal way -- in a common way is a better way  
8 of saying it to provide equitable deployment and  
9 adoption as well.

10 Sixthly, encourage fair competition  
11 and choice. We recommend state and localities  
12 should continue to explore the competition and  
13 choice not only to accelerate consumer options,  
14 but also thinking about what it means on the  
15 other end in terms of seamless engagement, online  
16 resources. That really can help with quality of  
17 life as well. And certainly, it's competition  
18 among ISP's may help to lower cost for consumers  
19 and improve quality of service for it as well.  
20 So we think that's also very important.

21 Next slide please. So the interviews  
22 in our task primarily focused around making these

1 recommendations for digital discrimination. But  
2 in this process, we learned a great deal about  
3 other factors that may also help to support  
4 digital equity as well. And this goes above and  
5 beyond what we were asked to do. But given, as  
6 we talked earlier about the urgency of now and  
7 it's imperative and also the complexity of this  
8 issue, our committee also decided to provide  
9 additional recommendations to support digital  
10 equity. We do this to help move the needle to  
11 make sure that everybody gets connected. But we  
12 also do it being very aware that we do not want  
13 to minimize or overshadow the great importance of  
14 dealing with digital discrimination. So we  
15 really want to make that point very clear.

16           So first -- and we'll go through this  
17 a little more rapidly -- but the first  
18 recommendation was to make low cost broadband  
19 available to low income household through  
20 government benefit programs as well, in  
21 combination with internet service providers low  
22 income programs. We're learning a lot from the

1       Emergency Broadband Program and the ACP Program  
2       as well. And through the lessons learned here,  
3       we think it is essential for the FCC to improve  
4       all of its programs to really make -- to help  
5       make broadband access affordable for everyone.  
6       There's a lot of lessons learned from this  
7       process where we can do better in doing so. And  
8       so we think this is certainly a very important  
9       priority and recommendation for us to make.

10               Secondly, building on the success of  
11       these programs, we really want to make sure that  
12       it remains feasible and easy for low income  
13       households to be able to apply some type of  
14       credit to an internet service of their choice.  
15       And so we recommend that state and locality  
16       should use available funds to supplement the  
17       federal broadband benefits for low income  
18       households. We've seen examples of these that we  
19       share in the report as well.

20               Thirdly, also in the vein of trying to  
21       help supplement access to broadband, it's  
22       important to raise awareness about the

1 connectivity programs or programs among eligible  
2 households. There's been a number of research  
3 studies that have really come out to show how  
4 important this is. And we recommend that state  
5 and local governments administer these programs  
6 that administer low benefit programs also share  
7 information widely about access to affordable  
8 broadband as well.

9 Let's move on to the fourth -- to the  
10 next slide. Fourth, we recommend that we  
11 strengthen -- the FCC and others should -- the  
12 FCC should work with state and localities to  
13 strengthen marketing communications about these  
14 programs and really do what we can to make sure  
15 that there's great awareness about this.

16 Particularly during COVID and so forth, there was  
17 great help from groups like the National  
18 Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
19 as an example, partnered with the FCC to help  
20 increase awareness about these programs as well.

21 And we certainly believe that more work can be  
22 done.

1                   And then also, there's great  
2                   opportunity for ISP's to put together more  
3                   materials to help explain offerings in a clear,  
4                   nontechnical language and multiple language. We  
5                   should explore -- state and local leaders should  
6                   also explore supplementing translation services  
7                   for consumers that need to sign up. Think about  
8                   the quality of service, like minimal hold times  
9                   when you're on the phone trying to get service,  
10                  those technical support things like having  
11                  somebody to walk the family through the process  
12                  stuff to be able to get through successfully in  
13                  signing up and using this. Really do things to  
14                  help make installation instructions clear and  
15                  easy for folks to follow and to do as well.

16                  Fifth, streamline the application  
17                  process referred to as we talked about above. We  
18                  know that there's a lot of complexity in these  
19                  particular programs, especially for ISP's as  
20                  well. And it does take a lot of time to complete  
21                  them. And then often gets passed on the  
22                  complexity for the applicants themselves. And so

1 we really want to do that. And we also make  
2 recommendations to improve that. And also try  
3 and find other ways to confirm their identity,  
4 rather than using a social security number.  
5 Often times there's a hesitancy in these programs  
6 to give out personal information. And so we want  
7 to see if there's some -- make some  
8 recommendations to try and explore other options.  
9 But still keep a high level of accountability and  
10 integrity within these programs as well.

11 Sixthly, increase support and funding  
12 for organizations, including schools, nonprofits,  
13 faith-based organizations to provide digital  
14 navigational assistance within the communities  
15 that they serve. It's not enough as we know to  
16 be able to establish broadband programs, but  
17 there's a great need as we say in the report, to  
18 have boots on the ground to help drive awareness  
19 about these programs. To help participants  
20 navigate the application enrollment process and  
21 to work with participants to build the digital  
22 skills necessary to get the most out of their

1 broadband service. And so we offer  
2 recommendations to try and help and address those  
3 things.

4 Seventh, we make recommendations to  
5 fund, promote, and leverage the use of digital  
6 navigators. Digital navigators are typically  
7 hired volunteers. They're from libraries, social  
8 service organizations, community-based  
9 organizations, and philanthropies that really  
10 have the experience of working face to face with  
11 individuals throughout our communities. They are  
12 a trusted voice in sharing information about how  
13 to use computers and so forth. And these  
14 programs can really help to encourage digital  
15 empowerment, help raise awareness about  
16 affordability options, especially for getting  
17 devices and programming and so forth. Help with  
18 the application and the installation process that  
19 we all go through and help with skills. But do  
20 it in a way that's very relatable. Meets folks  
21 right where they are. High level of empathy and  
22 a high level support to do all of what we can to

1 help bridge the digital divide.

2 Eighth -- next slide please. We  
3 recommend a stakeholder should encourage Congress  
4 to create digital public service and engagement  
5 programs, like the digital navigators to help  
6 conduct trainings and outreach, especially in  
7 communities that are not adopting or slow to  
8 adopt. And you know, the funding is obvious of  
9 how it can really help promote that high touch  
10 work of onboarding communities where there's  
11 greatest need.

12 Ninth. Related to the skills, our  
13 increasing device access, and participation. You  
14 know, in our recommendations, we note there are  
15 concerns about the adoption of broadband service,  
16 especially when it comes with the access to  
17 devices like computers and tablets and so forth.  
18 And we know there remain many consumers that do  
19 not have regular access to the devices and may be  
20 using a smartphone, but may need more appropriate  
21 devices like a laptop or tablet for those other  
22 needs that you have in your everyday life as



1 well. You can't write a report on a smartphone.  
2 You can't do homework on a smartphone for  
3 example. And so we really want to improve and  
4 increase access to devices in our  
5 recommendations.

6 Tenth, the use of public-private  
7 partnerships to facilitate remote learning and  
8 help close that homework gap. It takes multiple  
9 stakeholders -- frontline nonprofit  
10 organizations; the school districts, the  
11 libraries all to be working together to help  
12 close this homework gap. And we've learned a lot  
13 from the pandemic, which has really given us a  
14 platform to continue further and deepen the  
15 extent of which we can close the gap in our  
16 communities as well. And we think public-private  
17 partnerships are an important model for making  
18 that happen, especially having the FCC to help  
19 drive in building those types of public-private  
20 partnerships.

21 Next slide please. Another  
22 recommendation is to ensure that members of the

1 community have safe spaces to access the  
2 internet. I think we've heard many stories  
3 through our interviews where having that safe  
4 space -- safe space is very important. There are  
5 times where we've got to really zero and focus  
6 for doing very important things like applying for  
7 jobs, working on resumes, registering for  
8 government service, doing banking, and so forth.  
9 Our libraries and other community anchor  
10 institutions really provide a place for giving  
11 good access to connectivity that's safe and  
12 reliable. It may offer training and so forth,  
13 but also a space where you may feel free and  
14 comfortable to doing these types of sensitive and  
15 focused types of activities as well.

16 Next -- the twelfth recommendation is  
17 to strengthen digital skilling efforts in  
18 underserved communities. While cost can be a  
19 factor in broadband adoption, affordability is  
20 only one part of the process. We recommend state  
21 and localities work with nonprofit community  
22 organizations in the private sector to promote

1 digital skilling because we know that digital  
2 literacy is one of the greatest barriers to  
3 adoption as well.

4           And our thirteenth recommendation is  
5 to encourage the creation of workforce  
6 development and training opportunities to focus  
7 on historically underrepresented communities. We  
8 know that there is great need to really bridge  
9 gaining these digital skills, access to devices,  
10 getting connected to the internet and so forth,  
11 and translating those into workforce ready skills  
12 as well. And so we certainly heard from our  
13 interviewers, great examples of models where  
14 organizations on the frontline really bridge and  
15 make that happen. We heard from a number of them  
16 -- We give some examples here in the report --  
17 that really helped to focus on doing that as  
18 well.

19           So with that, we can move to the next  
20 slide. So with that, I'd like to thank you all  
21 for giving me this opportunity to run through  
22 what we learned from the interviews, our

1 recommendations for addressing the digital -- our  
2 charge to address digital discrimination, and  
3 then also our stewardship and thinking about  
4 digital equity where we provide some additional  
5 recommendations, 13 of those, around digital  
6 equity as well.

7 So I'd like to open it up and turn the  
8 microphone back to Dr. Dominique Harrison to move  
9 us forward where we can open it up for questions  
10 and further discussion and so forth. Thank you.

11 DR. HARRISON: Thank you so much to  
12 Dr. Jon Gant and Joi Chaney for going over the  
13 report with us. Again, I'm really excited about  
14 the work that we were able to accomplish together  
15 as a team. And at this moment, I'd like to open  
16 it up for any questions regarding our report.  
17 I'll also ask Jamila or our Chairwoman if there  
18 is anything else that I missed. Please let me  
19 know as we facilitate this portion of the  
20 meeting.

21 CHAIR GATE: Thank you so much. Dr.  
22 Harrison, before the questions, can we open it up

1 to the DEI Working Group as a whole for any  
2 comments at this point?

3 DR. GANT: Well, I do want to offer  
4 one. I started to ad-lib it during the  
5 presentation, but we got to this last point about  
6 the workforce development and working in  
7 underrepresented communities. We did hear a lot  
8 about -- a lot of good models for doing that.  
9 And I just want to just share with everybody here  
10 one example that you all may be aware of.

11 You know, the NTIA in its work around  
12 the Internet for All Initiative has just launched  
13 the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot  
14 Program. And I just want to say here -- and I  
15 want to brag a bit -- but I'm leading the effort  
16 here at North Carolina Central where we're the  
17 first HBCU to actually receive one of those  
18 grants to be able to do that. And it's very  
19 instrumental because we'll be able to work as a  
20 university and go into the surrounding  
21 communities next to us and provide the devices.  
22 Provide access to the internet. Provide the

1 digital navigator training with folks that are  
2 here. And then also working with employers so  
3 that, you know, as people gain these skills,  
4 they're going to be, you know, job-read and  
5 making that happen too.

6 And so I know that digital  
7 discrimination is a very tough issue to tackle,  
8 but these kinds of efforts really do open up  
9 those opportunities. And it's a great privilege  
10 to be leading a university and the first HBCU to  
11 be able to, you know, continue this work as we go  
12 forward as well too. And we'll take a lot of  
13 lessons learned from these interviews to really  
14 shape and really make sure that we do it with an  
15 all-community approach that involves stakeholders  
16 from -- you know, all community anchors and so  
17 forth. And I just wanted to share that and how  
18 it's really helped us with the work that we're  
19 doing here as well too.

20 DR. HARRISON: Can I also add that one  
21 of the things that we share in the report is that  
22 the work that we undertook is just the tip of the

1 iceberg. Right? As you mention again, these  
2 issues are very complex and we're at the  
3 beginning of really exploring this topic and  
4 understanding the different dynamics that occur  
5 as it relates to general discrimination. So you  
6 know, we're excited to get this work started, but  
7 it's not done yet. Right? There's work that our  
8 group is, you know, undertaking to think more  
9 about the different kind of aspects of this  
10 issue. But I also know that there are other  
11 organizations and companies and individuals who  
12 are thinking deeply about this topic.

13 So again, I just want to emphasize  
14 that we are just at the beginning of this. But I  
15 think we did and uncovered a lot of great  
16 information that will be helpful to people and  
17 organizations going forward.

18 MS. CHANEY: Dr. Harrison, National  
19 Urban League is doing that work. But I also want  
20 to acknowledge, because I know you can't see the  
21 chat, that we have some commentary there. Let's  
22 start with Lili Gangas. Lili, would you like to

1 -- would you like me to read it or would you like  
2 to say it? Lili? (Audio interference). Okay, go  
3 ahead.

4 MS. GANGAS: Sorry, I was muted.  
5 Yeah, thank you so much for sharing all these  
6 recommendations. I think there's one point to  
7 add. There's also the need for multiple  
8 languages. Right? As an example, where I  
9 reside, we have some of the areas with the most  
10 number of languages. And the local city  
11 government has to do multiple translations. And  
12 that tends to be expensive. And so wondering,  
13 you know, as hard as we look at digital  
14 navigation, opportunities and funding, and we're  
15 also addressing the need for multiple languages  
16 and also audio for some folks who may not have  
17 access to other ways of getting the information.

18 MS. CHANEY: If you cannot -- thank  
19 you, Lili. Faith Bautista also has a comment in  
20 the chat.

21 MS. BAUTISTA: Yeah. Where's my chat  
22 now? Yeah. So the recommendations are on point.



1 Thank you, guys. I'm just curious, how do we  
2 proceed with recommendations? Especially, I  
3 think these are easy things to do, especially  
4 working with nonprofits and with affordable  
5 connectivity program. And also, you know, Lili  
6 mentioned already, the languages -- how important  
7 it is, especially in the Asian community that we  
8 have 60 different languages that's being used in  
9 the country. Thank you.

10 CHAIR GATE: Thank you. Dr.  
11 Harrison, are we all still on? Okay, I thought -  
12 - I thought we had dropped the call. So to  
13 answer Faith's question, a critical part of what  
14 we're doing today is making these recommendations  
15 to the FCC. And granted we understand the  
16 practicality of these recommendations,  
17 particularly the digital equity one, that we can  
18 promote and advocate those types of  
19 recommendations in our communities.

20 But for the sake of today's  
21 deliberation, we are going to be voting on these  
22 recommendations. And we will be forwarding these

1 recommendations to the FCC Chairwoman's office  
2 for consideration as they work towards model  
3 policies -- model policies for states and  
4 localities per their required via the  
5 Infrastructure Bill. And so interestingly, we  
6 are a piece of the puzzle that includes the FCC's  
7 Digital Discrimination Taskforce. And then the  
8 other processing that the FCC would be engaging  
9 on over the next year maybe until the statutory  
10 deadline when they're supposed to actually  
11 release these policy updates and policy  
12 recommendations to states and localities.

13 And so Vice Chair Turner, are you back  
14 on? You wanted to talk a little bit about how  
15 this comes together via the FCC a little bit.

16 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Can you hear me  
17 now?

18 CHAIR GATE: Yes, I can hear you now.

19 VICE CHAIR TURNER: I changed  
20 computers and am in the process of watching Jon  
21 Gant's presentation.

22 CHAIR GATE: It's so much better. We

1 can hear you loud and clear.

2 VICE CHAIR TURNER: I know. I feel  
3 digitally equitable right now. Okay. So I just  
4 wanted to follow up. I think the presentation --  
5 First of all, Dr. Harrison and Dr. Gant, Esquire  
6 Joi, thank you very much for your participation  
7 and for all the committee members.

8 I do want to reiterate what Chairwoman  
9 Gate said for everybody who's watching that this  
10 is one part of the pie of the broader  
11 deliberations on the digital discrimination  
12 statute that the FCC has been charged to conquer  
13 by November 2023. And so people like D'wana  
14 Terry, Sanford Bishop, Alejandro Roark are  
15 actually working very diligently to do a series  
16 of open meetings.

17 So I had shared with Heather that I  
18 thought it was important to make sure this  
19 committee was very much aware that there is a  
20 website at the FCC that is devoted to this  
21 taskforce that has been appointed by the  
22 Chairwoman, as well as an email. They are

1 encouraging listening meetings to actually hear  
2 people chime in on their particular opinions and  
3 to figure out who is not at the table with  
4 regards to these issues. And so I think as  
5 everyone is considering the great work of this  
6 committee, it's important to know that it's part  
7 of a larger contextualization of how we  
8 operationalize this concept as part of  
9 fulfillment of the IIJA.

10 And so I think Chairwoman Gate, that's  
11 what you wanted me to share because I've been  
12 sort of following that carefully. Please do know  
13 that if you do have meetings with the FCC around  
14 this, that they have to be ex parte because they  
15 are part of an open proceeding as well with the  
16 exception, I assume of this meeting. But the  
17 report has to go to the Chairwoman for approval.

18 But you know, I just think again to  
19 Faith's point, there's just a combination of a  
20 lot of things and Lily's point with regards to  
21 the digital adoption activities and literacy  
22 activities versus what I think this group tried

1 to do well, which is to give states and  
2 localities some framework for operationalizing  
3 the deployment side. And so I think if you add  
4 those together, you just at least have a perfect  
5 pathway towards what should be considered or  
6 reconsidered as this conversation and  
7 deliberations ensue with the FCC. But want  
8 people to realize as you think about the voting  
9 on this final report, it's just one piece of a  
10 broader discussion of which your organization can  
11 have continued input into.

12 So hopefully Jamila has spoke on  
13 behalf of the FCC quite diligently in terms of  
14 that process and Chairwoman Gate and Vice Chair  
15 Susan Allen. Hopefully we were able to give  
16 people a bit of context as they go to this vote.

17 CHAIR GATE: Thank you. Jamila, would  
18 you like to respond?

19 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, no. I don't have  
20 anything to add about the Digital Discrimination  
21 Taskforce at this time. But thank you. Thank  
22 you so much.

1 CHAIR GATE: Thank you. Thank you.  
2 And a point for clarification, Lili, your comment  
3 about multiple languages, was that specifically a  
4 request for an edit to the report?

5 (Audio interference.)

6 CHAIR GATE: Can you repeat? Sorry.

7 MS. GANGAS: Sorry. I have audio  
8 issues as well. No. It would be just making sure  
9 as we roll it out, a recommendation for the next  
10 version of how some of this can be adopted right  
11 into the practical sense. Just ensuring that  
12 this is considerations around the cost of that.  
13 Because that's what I hear in the community. To  
14 be able to translate a lot of new programs in  
15 ways that the community can understand it. You  
16 know, translation dollars is all. Just making  
17 sure we consider that into criteria.

18 CHAIR GATE: Okay. So recommendations  
19 for the CEDC to continue with further discussion  
20 on costs and multiple languages. Is that sort of  
21 a recommendation for the DEI Working Group in  
22 their outgoing activities? Would that work for

1       you, Lili?

2                       VICE CHAIR ALLEN: Heather, you mean  
3       Faith -- Faith Bautista.

4                       CHAIR GATE: I believe that was Lili  
5       Gangas.

6                       VICE CHAIR ALLEN: Oh, Lili. Okay.  
7                       (Simultaneous speaking.)

8                       MS. BAUTISTA: I agree with Lili  
9       though. It should be multiple languages.

10                      CHAIR GATE: Okay.

11                      MS. BAUTISTA: Thank you.

12                      MS. JOHNSON: And let me just add,  
13       Madam Chair, I think these are appropriate  
14       matters to bring up within the other working  
15       groups. Because we had -- we had ad hoc members  
16       from the other working groups and they were all  
17       kind of given that opportunity in that space to  
18       share these ideas. So I think those ideas are  
19       incorporated to the extent they were raised  
20       within the context of this report. So I think  
21       that anything else we're talking about, we're  
22       talking about the additional workstreams that are

1 available and ongoing from Innovation and Access  
2 and from Diversity and Equity. And they all  
3 still have lots of work to be done on these  
4 issues. And that they're planning -- they're  
5 actually planning work on these issues. So I  
6 would ask that they incorporate those into those  
7 working groups.

8 CHAIR GATE: Yes. And I recommend --  
9 I recommend that Working Group Chair, Dr.  
10 Harrison, you'll take that into consideration.  
11 And I think they fall appropriately in ongoing  
12 activities within the other workstreams. So  
13 thank you, Faith and Lili for those comments.

14 I see Susan, Vice Chair, would like to  
15 comment.

16 VICE CHAIR ALLEN: I just want to add  
17 that the Asian-American is the most diverse  
18 group. I deal with it with the SBA. The SBA's  
19 CMPB (phonetic) Program has been dealing with the  
20 multi-ethnic group within Asian. We do have 100  
21 languages of dialect, but it's not going to be  
22 possible to translate -- or transliterate all



1 that into 100, but we're going to be practical  
2 about it. On that point, I truly think it's time  
3 for us to bring John Yang in, Asian-American  
4 Justice Center. He works closely with the other  
5 Justice Centers, essentially the one in  
6 California. They represent the Asian-American  
7 community well. And they are multi-language and  
8 the four dominant ones are Chinese, Vietnamese,  
9 Korean, Southeast Asians.

10 And I know we didn't go into that, but  
11 I bet that this is raised that cost is a factor,  
12 although we have a lot of money. But we don't  
13 want to become the obstacle -- to be the one that  
14 raised 100 languages or whatever it is. So  
15 please, let's put our heads together and bring  
16 John Yang in from the AJC --Asian-American  
17 Justice Center.

18 CHAIR GATE: Thank you, Susan. Great  
19 points.

20 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Madam Chairwoman,  
21 was there another comment? Faith, your hand was  
22 up.

1 MS. BAUTISTA: Yeah. I just want to  
2 add the six largest Asians that represents the 2  
3 percent population of this country, namely China,  
4 India, Philippines, Korean, Vietnamese, and  
5 Japanese. So those are the six languages and six  
6 sub-ethnic groups that represent 1 to 2 percent  
7 population -- 8 percent population of the Asian  
8 population in the U.S.

9 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Okay. And Madam  
10 Chairwoman, if I can -- Madam Chairwoman, if I  
11 can suggest also that this issue should apply  
12 across the workstreams as groups are developing  
13 different workshops and different documents to go  
14 into the public domain, that we remain sensitive  
15 as a Diversity Council that our Asian-American  
16 allies need to have that breadth of  
17 representation. And I would actually suggest for  
18 any group that is a party of the Equity Council  
19 even those who are less able, as well as other  
20 populations, Latino, African-Americans, et cetera  
21 that we just be sensitive to that as to our  
22 charter to ensure that we're equitably thinking

1 about those considerations.

2 MS. CHANEY: Yes. Recognizing that we  
3 are one of the most diverse councils that the FCC  
4 has put together, I am fully confident that  
5 members will speak up and make sure that  
6 everybody's represented in the work that we'll  
7 continue to do over the next few months.

8 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Right. From a  
9 procedural standpoint, just a quick question for  
10 you, Madam Chairwoman. It appears that, that  
11 comment would be something that would be more in  
12 the spirit of the committee. But for the  
13 purposes of the working group, are we to -- are  
14 we suggesting that, that will be taken in as an  
15 editorial addition or will we need to vote on  
16 this report so that we can proceed with the work  
17 of integrating these other issues? So I want to  
18 just make sure procedurally we stay on track to  
19 take that -- the report to vote. So it sounds to  
20 me -- Please correct me if I'm wrong, that we  
21 need to keep this in mind in the framing of the  
22 future workstreams. But more importantly to

1 Dominique, if there's a way to add in sensitivity  
2 to that -- you know, as long as it's reasonable  
3 as it's been stated. Or we can parking lot that  
4 and put that -- and ensure that, that's part of  
5 the next work. I just want to make sure we stay  
6 on task for --

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 CHAIR GATE: Yeah. Procedurally,  
9 we're putting it in the hands of the DEI Working  
10 Group to put within the workstreams of their  
11 current work right now. As we've talked about in  
12 meetings, our primary focus is digital  
13 discrimination. And then we did take the  
14 privilege of adding recommendations of digital  
15 equity. And so I think it falls well into the  
16 work that's currently ongoing with DEI Working  
17 Group and the other working groups too, to make  
18 sure that they take into account the needs of  
19 diverse populations, including the Asian  
20 population so for the sake of this since we will  
21 -- we will not be doing any editorial privileges  
22 on the actual report.

1                   Okay, all right. DEI Working Group,  
2 no more questions, comments? I do have a note  
3 from Tsion, if you'd like to just share your  
4 comment for public record.

5                   MS. TESHAYE: Oh, sure. Yes. I just  
6 wanted to thank the working group for  
7 incorporating many of the considerations that I  
8 shared on behalf of NTIA, especially during the  
9 time when we reconvened to get closer to more  
10 shared support for the report. So thank you.

11                   CHAIR GATE: Thank you very much.  
12 Thank you. I see Susan and Nicol. Do you still  
13 -- Do you still have your hands up or is it  
14 technical difficulties?

15                   VICE CHAIR ALLEN: No, I have my hand  
16 -- I do have my hand up.

17                   CHAIR GATE: Okay.

18                   VICE CHAIR ALLEN: Just one more  
19 comment as you solicited this comment, Madam  
20 Chairwoman. I would like to also encourage --  
21 make a recommendation, but encourage that once  
22 the procedural aspect of the support is completed

1 that based on where it falls, it's shared with  
2 the National Telecommunications Information  
3 Administration, NTIA who is not necessarily  
4 charged with this particular implementation of  
5 statute, but should actually see the good work of  
6 this committee when it comes to the equitable and  
7 universal access of broadband resources to  
8 underserved communities.

9 So I wanted to just put that out there  
10 that, you know, as a comment, that this report be  
11 shared with other agencies that are working  
12 alongside the IIJA to understand at least the  
13 slice of the bigger portion that the FCC has  
14 taken on.

15 CHAIR GATE: Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

17 CHAIR GATE: We will add that. All  
18 right. Any more -- Dominique, without any more  
19 questions and comments. Jamila, any questions or  
20 comments? We would like to open up questions and  
21 comments from the public.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Madam Chair, that is

1 actually scheduled for after the vote.

2 CHAIR GATE: After the vote, right.

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 CHAIR GATE: All right. Dr. Harrison,  
5 would you like to refer your wonderful report --  
6 Before I complete that comment, I do want to go  
7 back and thank you very much, Dr. Harrison and  
8 the whole DEI Working Group for your diligence  
9 and your commitment as Holly said for the past  
10 ten months. You all accepted the challenge. You  
11 all continued to show up and work hard after July  
12 22. And I'm internally grateful for your  
13 collegiality and your expertise and your  
14 willingness to engage in sometimes very  
15 difficult conversations. And so on that date,  
16 Dr. Harrison, would you like to refer your report  
17 for a vote?

18 DR. HARRISON: Yes, I would.

19 CHAIR GATE: Thank you so much. Thank  
20 you again to the whole DEI Working Group. And so  
21 on that note, I would like to see unanimous  
22 consent from CEDC voting members to adopt Part 1

1 of the report entitled, "Recommendations and Best  
2 Practices to Prevent Digital Discrimination and  
3 Promote Digital Equity". That was presented by  
4 the Digital Empowering Inclusion Working Group.  
5 And these recommendations include six  
6 recommendations for consideration by the FCC to  
7 prevent digital discriminations by ISP's.  
8 Secondly, it also includes 13 recommendations.  
9 The working group encourages the FCC to work with  
10 states and localities to seek, develop, deepen  
11 resources and capabilities to advance digital  
12 equity. And on top of that, we would also like  
13 to recommend that the FCC share these  
14 recommendations with the NTIA and other agencies  
15 as requested by our Vice-Chair.

16 So on that note, I would like to open  
17 up the floor for any no votes and any --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MR. ROBERTS: I'd like to make a  
20 motion --

21 CHAIR GATE: Go ahead.

22 MR. ROBERTS: I'd like to make a



1 motion as just described that we approve these  
2 two recommendations from this committee.

3 CHAIR GATE: Thank you so much. Do I  
4 have a second?

5 MS. TATE: I second the motion.

6 CHAIR GATE: Okay. At this point, I  
7 would like to open for any -- seeking unanimous  
8 consent, I would like to provide a few seconds  
9 for any no votes or any abstain.

10 MS. JOHNSON: And for the record,  
11 Madam Chair, was that Jocelyn Tate seconding the  
12 motion of Steven Roberts?

13 CHAIR GATE: Yes.

14 (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

16 CHAIR GATE: Okay. The report is  
17 adopted with unanimous consent. Thank you so  
18 much. Thank you so much. And we're really  
19 excited about continuing to work together. This  
20 is not the end. We have so much more work that  
21 we're doing. A lot of further discussions and a  
22 lot of other upcoming recommendations on digital

1 equity, not only from the DEI Working Group, but  
2 from the other working groups that you will hear  
3 from sometime in the first quarter of 2023. I'm  
4 extremely appreciative of all the work. I don't  
5 know if Susan and Nicol want to offer some  
6 comments at this point.

7 VICE CHAIR ALLEN: I just want to say  
8 well done. Well done.

9 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yeah. And I would  
10 just like to say thank you, everybody. Again,  
11 well done and we've got many more months in this  
12 charter to do more great work. So actually Madam  
13 Chairwoman, you want to for the public, just let  
14 them know that there's going to be a series of  
15 more work coming out of this committee before we  
16 actually close out.

17 CHAIR GATE: Oh, absolutely. There's  
18 a lot more work to come out from the different  
19 workstreams over the next seven months. So  
20 please stay tuned for more work and more  
21 recommendations. Our work is not done. This is  
22 just the beginning. This is just the opening

1 call. And we will continue to follow up and  
2 offer more and more comments and recommendations.

3 And so on that note, Jamila, any  
4 questions or comments from the public that --

5 MS. JOHNSON: I will refer to Keyla.  
6 Keyla, have you received any questions from the  
7 public?

8 MS. HERNANDEZ-ULLOA: Hello.  
9 Confirming that I have not received any questions  
10 from the public.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Keyla.

12 MS. HERNANDEZ-ULLOA: You're welcome.

13 MS. JOHNSON: I think the DEI group  
14 did such a great job, everybody understood  
15 everything. So we'll take that as a compliment.

16 VICE CHAIR ALLEN: You anticipated all  
17 of the questions and had all the answers. Kudos.

18 CHAIR GATE: Provide all the answers.  
19 Okay. On that note, I would like to hand it over  
20 to you, Jamila for any closing comments.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, thank you so much.  
22 What a lovely, lovely meeting. I think we've

1       been all anticipating this day for a long time.  
2       So I'd just like to thank everyone for coming.  
3       We've had an outstanding attendance. All of your  
4       colleagues showing up to support you in this  
5       work. And I think that it's clear from the  
6       presentation that the task from Chairwoman  
7       Rosenworcel to the CEDC was seriously considered  
8       and seriously undertaken by the entire CEDC. It  
9       was a whole of the CEDC effort that examined  
10      digital discrimination and how it impacts the  
11      lives of students, caregivers, job seekers,  
12      parents, schools, and healthcare providers, among  
13      others.

14                        So today's report as you can tell  
15      would not have been possible without the  
16      significant personal commitment from everyone on  
17      the CEDC, but especially on the DEI Working Group  
18      being willing to do several things at once,  
19      including meeting many, many times a week to  
20      interview, to do research, to deliberate, to  
21      reassess. It was an organic, robust, ongoing  
22      process. And that's the kind of commitment that

1 the FCC is truly grateful for as we work toward a  
2 common goal.

3 And I would like to give special  
4 thanks to DEI Working Group Chair, Dominique  
5 Harrison -- Dr. Dominique Harrison, Joi Chaney,  
6 and Dr. Jon Gant. Your leadership on this  
7 journey and this process has been invaluable.  
8 Thank you so very much. And thank you also to  
9 all at the FCC who have been involved in  
10 supporting this work, Rashann, Keyla, and  
11 Aurelie. We all are working in the background,  
12 but it has required quite a commitment of their  
13 time as well.

14 And for everyone's information, the  
15 adopted report will be posted to the CEDC's  
16 website. And it will be transmitted to FCC  
17 Chairwoman Rosenworcel on behalf of the CEDC from  
18 Chair Heather Gate. And we thank Chair Heather  
19 Gate for her leadership and her steady hand and  
20 Dr. Nicole Turner Lee for her inspiration and her  
21 many hours of review and editing. And Dr. -- I  
22 call her Doctor -- Dr. Susan Au Allen for all of

1 her many hours of work reviewing, sitting in on  
2 interviews, just always being there for  
3 everything that we needed. And so I thank you  
4 all, everyone. I'm personally very proud to have  
5 this report on the CEDC's website as a reflection  
6 of you all's dedication to this work. So unless  
7 there's anything further, I want to wish, on  
8 behalf of the FCC, everyone a safe and wonderful  
9 Thanksgiving and holiday season and we'll see you  
10 all soon. Take care.

11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
12 went off the record at 2:42 p.m.)

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