



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

Mike O'Rielly
Commissioner

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill,

Thank you for your letter of March 1, 2016 regarding potential reforms of the Lifeline program. I very much agree with your suggestion that the Commission should institute a budget for the program and have long advocated this approach. Like you, I envision such a "budget" as a spending cap that would need to be revisited by the Commission in the event any increase in the amount is considered necessary. I have shown some willingness to moderate this position to some degree, but none of my suggestions have yet been embraced by my colleagues. In order to protect contributing consumers, I remain hopeful that the Commission will ultimately implement such a mechanism for real cost control of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M O'Rielly".

Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner