



The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
510 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

Our organizations strongly support President Biden's nomination of Anna Gomez to serve on the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"). Ms. Gomez possesses the deep expertise, experience, and vision necessary to make significant contributions to the FCC's important work, including the agency's pending examination of the E-rate's outdated cybersecurity provisions.

Ms. Gomez's extensive experience in the telecommunications sector, including her past work at the Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the White House, has prepared her well for this important public service. Our organizations appreciate her recognition of the paramount importance of strengthening the security of the nation's digital infrastructure. We welcomed her response to Senator Sinema's timely inquiry about using the E-rate to protect schools and libraries from cyberattacks. Ms. Gomez prudently responded she would study the E-rate's relevant statutory authority and that she is "...very supportive of any efforts to secure the networks over which this important data is being carried".

Cyberattacks targeting educational institutions and libraries have become alarmingly frequent, resulting in school closures, compromising sensitive student and educator data, and imposing substantial financial burdens on taxpayers due to ransomware incidents and subsequent recovery efforts. According to the Cybersecurity and Information Security Agency, school districts are the most targeted sector for ransomware and other cyberattacks. The FCC has important decisions to make about the role of E-rate and cybersecurity. It is our fervent hope that the committee expeditiously approves Ms. Gomez's nomination, enabling the FCC to address this nationwide problem and the other telecommunications challenges confronting our educational institutions and communities.

Thank you for considering our endorsement of Ms. Gomez's nomination. We greatly appreciate your leadership of the committee.

Sincerely,

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cc: Senate Commerce Committee