

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 28, 2015

Contacts: Jan Kruse, jkruse@nclc.org or 617-542-8010;
Olivia Wein owein@nclc.org or 202-452-6252, x 103

Statement Regarding FCC Proposals to Modernize Lifeline
Low-Income Phone Program Would Include Broadband Internet

(Washington) Today Chairman Tom Wheeler shared with fellow FCC Commissioners a set of proposals to modernize the federal low-income discount phone program Lifeline to include broadband support.

National Consumer Law Center Attorney Olivia Wein praised today's action. "The National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients, strongly supports the modernization of Lifeline to include broadband service. The lack of affordable broadband service hurts children whose educational opportunities are limited and hampers workers' ability to apply for jobs or establish entrepreneurial businesses. Internet access affects every facet of modern life, from access to healthcare to participation in commerce. In an information age, access to modern communication services enhances the competitiveness of individuals and communities. Three out of four federal Universal Service programs have already shifted from supporting voice to supporting broadband. It is Lifeline's turn."

###

Since 1969, the nonprofit National Consumer Law Center[®] (NCLC[®]) has used its expertise in consumer law and energy policy to work for consumer justice and economic security for low-income and other disadvantaged people, including older adults, in the United States. NCLC's expertise includes policy analysis and advocacy; consumer law and energy publications; litigation; expert witness services, and training and advice for advocates. NCLC works with nonprofit and legal services organizations, private attorneys, policymakers, and federal and state government and courts across the nation to stop exploitative practices, help financially stressed families build and retain wealth, and advance economic fairness. www.nclc.org