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Wednesday, April 24, 2013

[A Balanced Look at Lifeline and Its Reform - Part II](#)

Posted by Randolph J. May at [8:30 PM](#)

The House Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology is holding a [hearing tomorrow](#) entitled, "The Lifeline Fund: Money Well Spent?" For a long time I've maintained the Lifeline fund provides an important "safety net" for those low-income persons who otherwise might go without communications service. Most recently, I wrote about this in ["A Balanced Look at Lifeline and Its Reform."](#)

A balanced look at Lifeline means recognizing that it is important to root out fraud and abuse in the program, while also recognizing the positive role the program plays in today's society when being "connected" is more important than ever.

We know this intuitively, and the hard evidence abounds. But an article in today's Wall Street Journal online, ["How Your Smartphone Could Get You a Job,"](#) drives the point home again, especially with regard to the value of wireless phones made available to low income persons through Lifeline's subsidies. The article details how job-hunting is rapidly moving to mobile devices. Indeed, it refers to the IDC study predicting "that mobile devices will overtake desktop and laptop computers as Americans preferred method for accessing the Internet by 2015." Interestingly, there is now a lot of [data](#) available indicating that minorities are more likely than non-minorities to own smartphones, and this phenomenon has helped to close the so-called "digital divide." No doubt Lifeline's subsidies that allow low-income persons to obtain mobile devices has played a role in this regard.

My FSF colleague, former FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, has been a steadfast supporter of Lifeline. With the hearing tomorrow, her earlier pieces, ["A Vital Lifeline"](#) and ["FCC's Lifeline Reforms Should Keep Low-Income Consumers Connected,"](#) are worth reading again.

Like me, former Commissioner Tate recognizes the need for Lifeline reforms, such as implementation of a functioning, accessible, and accurate eligibility database, to prevent abuse of the program. But past problems regarding screening and enforcing eligibility requirements are not a reason to ignore the program's value.

Finally, like me, Commissioner Tate recognizes that the existence of a healthy Lifeline program means policymakers, if they are truly reform-minded, should focus on curtailing growth in other

parts of the program, such as the high-cost fund, where the subsidies to rural telcos are distributed on a more indiscriminate, less targeted basis.

As she put it in "[A Vital Lifeline](#)":

"And here's an important point about the Lifeline program that should be emphasized: The fact that the program exists, as a means of targeting subsidies to those truly in need, makes it easier to argue convincingly that those parts of the overall USF program which distribute subsidies in a much more indiscriminate fashion, such as the high-cost program, should be subject to hard caps and gradual reductions.

So, when the House subcommittee convenes tomorrow, I hope it takes a balanced look at the Lifeline program, which over many years now, has enjoyed bipartisan support.

‘Obama phones’ subsidy program draws new scrutiny on the Hill

By [Karen Tumulty](#), Published: April 9

When someone in the Washington area begins to type the president’s last name into the search box of Google’s home page, the top three terms it suggests as the most popular selections are Obama, [Obamacare](#) and . . . Obama phone.

Obama phone? A hotline, maybe, to the Oval Office?

Hardly. “Obama phone” is the widely used — and misleading — nickname of a 28-year-old federal program known as [Lifeline](#). It provides discounts, averaging \$9.25 a month, on phone service for 13.3 million low-income subscribers.

In the 3¹/₂ years after false rumors started that the Obama administration was giving free cellphones to poor people — and six months after a racially charged video about it went viral — a once-obscure phone service subsidy is getting renewed scrutiny on Capitol Hill.

There are growing calls in Congress to end or drastically cut back Lifeline; later this month, the House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing that could help determine its fate.

“The program has nearly tripled in size from \$800 million in 2009 to \$2.2 billion per year in 2012,” the senior Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee wrote in a March 26 letter to the Democratic minority. “American taxpayers — and we as their elected representatives — need to know how much of this growth is because of waste, fraud and abuse.”

Lifeline was begun not by President Obama but under Ronald Reagan. It expanded to include cellphone service during the presidency of another Republican, George W. Bush.

In Obama’s first term, amid evidence of widespread fraud, the Federal Communications Commission moved to crack down on the program, saving what it predicts will be \$400 million this year, on top of \$214 million in 2012.

Never mind all that. “Obama phone” has stuck.

Republicans employ it as shorthand for the excesses of a welfare state. So prevalent is the catchphrase that some telecommunications companies even market the discounted service as an “Obama phone” — and often add a free phone for those who sign up.

Lifeline’s intent was inarguable enough: Phone service is “crucial to full participation in our society and economy,” the FCC noted in the order creating Lifeline on Jan. 8, 1985.

Expanding Lifeline to cellphone service reflected not only technology but also the reality of how poor people live. Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that slightly more than half of adults in poverty lived in households that had only wireless phone service.

But in the view of many conservatives, the “Obama phone” has become Exhibit A in the case against a liberal president who they believe is doling out goodies to make people more dependent on government. It is a version of the infamous “47 percent” argument that GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney made last year, when he claimed at a surreptitiously videotaped fundraiser that nearly half the population supports Obama because it wants government handouts.

Lifeline made its way onto the radar screens of the right with an anonymous e-mail, which began circulating in 2009. It warned that free “Obama phones” were being given to welfare recipients, along with 70 minutes of service a month. “The very foundations that this country was built on are being shaken,” the e-mailer wrote.

From there, the conspiracy theories sprouted. Conservative talk radio last year was abuzz with speculation that “Obama phones” had become a means for the president’s tech-savvy reelection campaign to get poor people and minorities to vote.

Some of it was fueled by a video of an Obama supporter that went viral about six weeks before the election and has been viewed almost 8 million times.

“Everybody in Cleveland, low minority got Obama phone,” a woman yells on the video. “Keep Obama in president, you know? He gave us a phone.”

That narrative has lived on for some Obama critics as an allegory that explains the president’s worldview. “The president offers you free stuff, but his policies keep you poor,” Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said in the tea party response to Obama’s State of the Union address. “For those who are struggling, we want you to have something infinitely more valuable than a free phone.”

And it has become woven into the current fiscal arguments. House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) tweeted on Feb. 19: “Nobody should be talking about tax hikes when govt is spending taxpayer dollars on free cell phones.”

Lifeline, however, is not funded by taxes; it subsists on fees that are tacked on to most phone bills. That fund subsidizes a number of programs, which in addition to Lifeline include telecommunications service to rural and remote areas and to schools and libraries.

Some see a racial dimension to the opposition. “The syllogism is we all know — wink, wink — who is undeserving and who are the takers,” said David Honig, co-founder of the Minority Media and Telecom Council, which promotes access to technology for the disadvantaged. “The president looks like them, and he gives things away to them.”

The more substantive problem that has plagued Lifeline has little to do with either side's political philosophy. When it was expanded to cover cellphone service in 2008, regulators included few safeguards against fraud.

As a result, there have been widespread reports that cellular providers, eager to collect a subsidy for each low-income subscriber, signed people up without verifying their eligibility. Some recipients also snapped up multiple phones in violation of a one-per-household rule.

Republicans are not the only ones complaining.

After Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) received a solicitation for a free phone in the mail at her home in 2011, she joined the chorus of critics. As the Senate deliberated on its budget in late March, McCaskill was the only Democrat to join Republicans in voting for a nonbinding amendment by Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) that called for ending the "mobile phone welfare program."

The FCC implemented a set of regulations last year that required detailed audits every two years of companies that receive more than \$5 million from Lifeline and imposed new requirements on subscribers to prove their eligibility and recertify it each year.

The agency has also reviewed 12.5 million subscriber records, eliminating what it says were 1.1 million duplicate subscriptions. And it is developing a national database of Lifeline subscribers to prevent fraud.

That, however, does not satisfy lawmakers such as Rep. Tim Griffin (R-Ark.), who has written a House bill to restrict the program to land lines.

Beyond the potential for waste and fraud, Griffin said, the program raises other questions.

"Should the federal government be giving people cellphones?" he said. "What about iPads? Where do we draw the line on this stuff?"

Alice R. Crites contributed to this report.

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April 23, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: The Importance of Lifeline Phones to Individuals with Disabilities

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

The Center for Accessible Technology (CforAT), the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC), and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) jointly send this letter to stress the importance of the Lifeline program to low-income people with disabilities.

CforAT is the nation's oldest center on assistive technology for use by people with disabilities. We work directly with people with disabilities to provide access to computers and the network, work as an intervenor on telecommunications issues at the California Public Utilities Commission on behalf of the disability community, and provide online services to enable people outside our local community to have access to technology information relevant to people with disabilities. We are particularly focused on how technology is used to access the network and the Internet.

HKNC serves people who are deaf and blind, and its mission is to enable each person who is deaf-blind to live and work in their community of choice. Many individuals who are deaf-blind are unemployed and underserved. They are also just now signing up with the National Deaf Blind Equipment Program and some can benefit from the Lifeline program for support with the cost of telecommunications.

NDRN is the national membership association for the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Assistance Program (CAP) agencies, the nationwide network of congressionally-mandated agencies that advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities in every state and territory. NDRN, the P&As, and CAPs promote a society where people

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with disabilities enjoy equality of opportunity and are able to participate fully in community life by exercising informed choice and self-determination. Since the use of technology and telecommunications is an important way people with disabilities achieve full community integration, NDRN, the P&As and CAPs are continually working to ensure that people with disabilities have access to these important technologies and devices.

CforAT, HKNC and NDRN are writing to you today in support of the Lifeline program. The Lifeline program provides affordable essential phone service to households with very low income, including many households containing a person with a disability. Phone connectivity is essential for reaching emergency services in a timely manner, and for maintaining connectivity to friends, family, employers, providers of social services, medical professionals, teachers, and for engaging in day to day activities such as refilling a prescription or finding out how much value remains on a prepaid card. We note that the standard wireless Lifeline product provides 250 minutes a month, which is a little over 4 hours a month. We consider this to be a very modest amount of minutes.

The Lifeline program is particularly important for individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities are the community with the highest levels of unemployment and under-employment. The disability community is also a community that is highly dependent on the network: people with disabilities use the network for health care issues, to decrease social isolation, and as a way of handling emergency issues. Without this connectivity, many people with disabilities may be unable to live independently, and may be forced into restrictive institutional care. For many people with disabilities, the network is not just a convenience – it is a critical life need, a true “lifeline” in every meaning of the word.

The Lifeline program was recently reformed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse. The reforms affect both the consumer and the carriers. Lifeline applicants must now provide documentation to certify eligibility for the program before being able to receive Lifeline (proof of income or participation in a qualifying program such as SNAP). Lifeline consumers must also verify annually that they are still eligible for the program and if they fail to do so, they are disenrolled. Consumers must also certify, among other things, that their household has only one Lifeline account. Carriers, too, must now disclose if a phone service is part of the Lifeline program and that an eligible household is only allowed to have one Lifeline service. The Lifeline reforms also require an officer of the company to certify every month they seek reimbursement for providing discounted service that they are in compliance with the program rules and certify, under penalty of perjury, that the information on the claim forms is true, accurate and complete. These reforms went into place last year and should be given a chance to roll-out before disrupting this vital public safety program.

The Lifeline Program is one that is important to providing equal access to people with disabilities, and we urge you to support this valuable program. Thank you for your careful review of this input.

Sincerely,

/S/

Dmitri Belser
Executive Director
Center for Accessible Technology

/S/

Dorothy L. Walt, M.A.
Regional Representative, Northwest Region
Helen Keller National Center

/S/

Curt Decker
Executive Director
National Disability Rights Network



April 24, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and
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Committee on Energy and Commerce
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Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re.: Importance and Value of the Lifeline Program

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo:

On behalf Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, and Self-Help for the Elderly, we write to express our strong support for the Lifeline program.

AAJC is dedicated to promoting a fair and equitable society for all by working for civil and human rights and empowering Asian Americans and other underserved communities. We provide the growing Asian American communities with multilingual support and culturally appropriate legal services, community education, and public policy and civil rights advocacy. In the communications field, AAJC works to promote universal access and reduce barriers to critical technology, services, and the media.

Established in 1966 to serve seniors in San Francisco's Chinatown community, Self-Help for the Elderly's mission is to promote the independence, dignity and self-worth of seniors by empowering seniors to help themselves and by providing a comprehensive range of multicultural and multilingual services. Self-Help for the Elderly serves over 35,000 seniors each year in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties. AAJC and Self-Help for the Elderly recently partnered to administer Broadband Technology Opportunity Programs (BTOP) to increase broadband adoption in the Asian American community.

The Lifeline program helps approximately 16 million low-income households gain access to critical phone services that provide them an invaluable connection to employment opportunities, emergency services, medical and social care, friends, and family. As the subcommittee considers major modifications to the Lifeline program, we urge the subcommittee to carefully weigh the benefits of the program and potential disruption of phone service to vulnerable populations.

Significant Subgroups of Asian Americans Benefit from Lifeline

Created by President Reagan in 1984, the Lifeline program currently supports low-income households gain access to wireline or wireless telephone service. Households at or below 135% of the federal poverty line or who participate in certain government assistance programs qualify for the program.

While some members of the Asian American community are faring well, others—particularly those in the Southeast Asian community—continue to face socioeconomic challenges specific to their subgroup that likely make eligible for the Lifeline program. For example, Laotian, Cambodian and Hmong Americans are more likely than any racial group to access cash public assistance.¹ Bangladeshi, Laotian, and Hmong Americans all have average per capita incomes of under \$20,000 and Korean, Hmong, Laotian, Cambodian, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Bangladeshi seniors have above average poverty rates.²

Communication services are literally a “lifeline” for many Asian Americans because approximately one-third of Asian Americans are limited-English proficient (LEP).³ All of the ethnic groups listed above also have LEP rates above 40% and many live in linguistically isolated households.⁴ For example, Self-Help for the Elderly serves over 25,000 low-income monolingual (non-English) Asian Americans in San Francisco’s Chinatown who are enrolled or are eligible for Lifeline benefits. Having telephone service is critical for these individuals to stay in contact and communicate in their native language with medical professionals, social workers, family, friends, and emergency services. Without the Lifeline program LEP communities we serve would be further isolated by from critical social services and their communities by having their sole means of communications cut off.

The FCC has made great efforts prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. Applicants must provide proof of eligibility and phone companies must certify they are providing services to eligible consumers. These major reforms have strengthened the Lifeline program and the FCC should have the opportunity to monitor the efficacy of these reforms before further changes are made to the programs.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important topic. Please do not hesitate to contact Jason T. Lagria, AAJC Senior Staff Attorney, at 202-296-2300 ext. 122 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Jason T. Lagria
Senior Staff Attorney
Media and Telecommunications
Asian American Justice Center



Anni Chung
President and CEO
Self-Help for the Elderly

¹ Asian Pacific American Legal Center & Asian American Justice Center, *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans in the United States 2011* 38 (2011). In 2007-2009 approximately 13% of Hmong, 7% of Cambodian, and 6% of Laotian American households accessed cash public assistance, compared to 5% of African American and 4% of Latino households.

² *Id.* at 36-37.

³ *Id.* at 27.

⁴ *Id.* at 28-29.



April 23, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: The Importance of Lifeline Phones to Individuals with Disabilities

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the nonprofit membership organization for the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) and Client Advocacy Program (CAP) agencies for individuals with disabilities. The P&As and CAPs were established by the United States Congress through eight separate programs to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. The P&A and CAP network advocates for people with disabilities to receive appropriate services to allow them to live and work independently and fully integrated into the community.

We are writing to express our support for the Lifeline program. The Lifeline program provides affordable essential phone service to households with very low incomes. Phone connectivity is essential for these households to reach emergency services in a timely manner, and to maintain connectivity to friends, family, employers, providers of social services, medical professionals, teachers, and for engaging in day to day activities such as refilling a prescription or finding out how much value remains on a prepaid card. The standard wireless Lifeline product provides 250 minutes a month, which is a little over 4 hours a month – a very modest amount.

The Lifeline program is particularly important for individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities have nearly twice the level of unemployment and one third the labor force participation as individuals without a disability. People with

disabilities are highly dependent on telecommunications to take care of their health, to decrease social isolation, to handle emergencies, and find employment. Without the connectivity afforded by Lifeline, many people with disabilities would have difficulty living independently, and would have to resort to restrictive institutional care. For many people with disabilities, the Lifeline program is not just a convenience – it is a critical life need.

The Lifeline program was recently reformed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse. The reforms affect both the consumer and the carriers. These reforms went into place last year and should be given a chance to roll-out before disrupting this vital public safety program.

The Lifeline Program is one that is important to providing equal access to people with disabilities, and I urge you to support this valuable program. If you would like more information, please contact Patrick Wojahn at 202-408-9514, x102, or patrick.wojahn@ndrn.org. Thank you for your careful review of this input.

Sincerely,



Curt Decker
Executive Director

April 24, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: Lifeline Phones are Essential for the Delivery of Health Care

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

My name is Dr. Genevieve Preer; I am a pediatrician at Boston Medical Center, a safety-net hospital for the urban poor in the Boston metropolitan area. Many of my patients live in poverty, which exposes them to social factors – such as housing and utility instability – that are detrimental to health. Some of these social factors relate to legal rights and remedies, and thus part of my practice involves collaborating with Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston to assure that my patients get the legal care they need to get and stay healthy. As I explain through real case studies detailed below, reliable phone service through the Lifeline program, is one of those social factors that has a direct to connection to whether my patients get adequate healthcare. This is especially the case for my homeless patients.

Homelessness is a permanent part of the landscape here in the Boston area, with its extremely high cost of living; it is very common for my patients to be marginally housed, meaning that they are doubled up with family members or friends, sleeping on couches or floors. Others are homeless and are living in shelter, in vehicles, in abandoned buildings, or outdoors. Landline phones are not a feasible option for these families, and because they cannot afford the price of a full cellular plan **all of these families depend upon Lifeline cellphones for communication – especially with their doctors. Lifeline cellphones are the ONLY way for them to be in touch with me and vice versa.**

I cannot overemphasize how important it is for my patients and families to have reliable, consistent phone access to me and to their other medical providers. Lack of access to phone service can have an immediate and deleterious impact on my patients' health. This is true for healthy children, whose parents may need to contact our clinic for routine medical advice regarding fever, injury, or other illness. Yet phone access is even more critically important for my most medically complex patients who require intense coordination of care with multiple subspecialties, including frequent phone calls to arrange appointments, studies, and procedures. In the absence of a reliable mode of contact, these patients miss essential care and suffer unacceptable health repercussions.

For example, a medically complex two year old with congenital heart disease, developmental delay and failure to thrive needs phone service to enable her parents to arrange for medical transport, delivery of special formula, and communicate with the pharmacy about medications. Furthermore, I need to be able to contact her family to be able to monitor her symptoms and to ensure medications are being taken as prescribed. When I cannot reliably contact vulnerable fragile patients like this one, medications are administered incorrectly, significant symptoms are missed, and serious, avoidable complications result.

As another example, I often prescribe medications that are critically important to treat serious conditions such as pneumonia, urinary tract infection, and cellulitis, to name a few. If my patient's family is unable to contact me about side effects, how to administer the medication, or to inform me that the pharmacy has failed to fill their prescription, potentially life threatening conditions go untreated, jeopardizing my patients' health and leading to preventable emergency room visits and hospitalizations. If a five year old patient with a developing pneumonia is sent home from the emergency department with a prescription for a specialized antibiotic, but is unable to fill his prescription due to lack of insurance coverage, his family may have no way to contact my office to inform me that he has not received appropriate treatment. The next time I hear of this patient will be when he is hospitalized in our pediatric intensive care unit with severe respiratory distress due to untreated pneumonia.

I can tell you that there is no clinical scenario more frustrating or concerning than when I am not able to reach the family of a patient with ongoing medical needs. If I see a three year old in clinic who has refractory asthma and symptoms of a worsening flare, I will treat him and send him home with a plan for one of our clinical staff to call the next day to evaluate his status. If that family is homeless, there may be no other way to reach them than a cell phone.

Whenever I discharge a fragile patient with complex medical problems, I worry that if that family is without cellphone access they will be unable to contact me, nor I them, and putting that patient at risk for preventable medical complications.

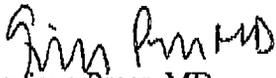
These homeless and marginally housed families deserve access to Lifeline phone service regardless of where they live. Many of these families do not have sufficient money for food and public transportation, let alone bank accounts to manage monthly phone bills payments. Having a reliable phone number to reach a patient facilitates more efficient delivery of care.

The recently reformed Lifeline program is essential for protecting the health and safety of some of the most vulnerable populations in our society and it has a positive, and potentially life-saving, impact on my pediatric patients. Access to the program is improved rather than restricted.

Medical  Legal Partnership | Boston
TAKING THE FIGHT FOR HEALTH

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For this reason, on behalf of Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston and my vulnerable patients who depend on Lifeline cellphone service to access health care, I urge this committee to ensure that the Lifeline program continues to fill its vitally important role in protecting my patients' health and safety.


Genevieve Preer, MD

cc: JoHanna Flacks, Legal Director

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April 23, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: The Importance of Lifeline Phones to Consumers with Limited Means

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

The Lifeline program provides modest, affordable, essential phone service to low-income households and is literally a “lifeline” to jobs, emergency service, medical care, childcare, the school system, social services, family and community. The following organizations urge you to allow the recent round of reforms to take hold before precipitously altering this program:

The **National Consumer Law Center® (NCLC®)** is a nonprofit that works for economic justice for low-income and other disadvantaged people in the U.S. through policy analysis and advocacy, publications, litigation, and training. NCLC has long been involved in the policy issues around the design of the Lifeline program as part of its work to ensure affordable, reliable access to essential utility service for consumers with limited means.

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) is a regional non-profit law firm in Ohio that provides a full range of free, high quality legal services to low-income individuals and groups to help them achieve self-reliance, economic opportunity, and equal justice. ABLE serves clients in thirty-two counties in Northwest and Western Ohio as well as migrant farmworkers and immigrant workers statewide. Established in 1969, ABLE has a long history of representing low-income clients in all types of administrative advocacy and complex civil litigation, including consumer protection and utilities matters. Since 1995, ABLE attorneys have actively worked on behalf of community organizations to expand access and ensure affordability of telecommunications services.

The **Benton Foundation**¹ works to ensure that media and telecommunications serve the public interest and enhance our democracy.

¹ The Benton Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting communication in the public interest. These comments reflect the institutional view of the

www.NCLC.org

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Benton pursues this mission by seeking policy solutions that support the values of access, diversity and equity, and by demonstrating the value of media and telecommunications for improving the quality of life for all. Benton has long advocated for the ubiquitous telecommunications access for all Americans.

The **Center of Media Justice** is a non-profit whose mission is to create media and cultural conditions that strengthen movements for racial justice, economic equity and human rights.

Connecticut Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm that provides advice and representation to low income households and pursues policies to protect and enforce their legal rights.

The **Greenlining Institute** is a research, advocacy, and leadership development organization working for racial and economic justice. We believe that everyone, regardless of race or income, should have a fair chance to achieve the American Dream.

The **Low Income Utility Advocacy Project (LIUAP)** engages in administrative and legislative advocacy in Illinois in the utility/energy area on behalf of low income households and not-for-profits. It is a project of the Shriver Poverty Law Center, Voices for Illinois Children and Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Justice

The **Legal Services Advocacy Project**, is a division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, providing legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of the seven regional legal services programs and on behalf of low-income Minnesotans statewide.

New Jersey SHARES, Inc. is a statewide non-profit corporation primarily providing assistance to individuals and families in need of help meeting their energy and utility burden. Through assistance, advocacy, community outreach, education, information and referral, we connect low and moderate income households with available resources.

The **Ohio Poverty Law Center** is a nonprofit law office that pursues statewide policy and systemic advocacy to expand, protect, and enforce the legal rights of low-income Ohioans.

Open Access Connections facilitate communications services to encourage self-determination and stronger community connections for low-income and homeless people. We do this by advocating for and providing free communication tools for people in need.

Pro Seniors is a non-profit organization that provides free legal and long-term care help to older adults. Pro Seniors offers Ohio residents age 60 and older the advice and information they need to solve their legal and nursing home, adult care facility, and home health care problems.

Springwire (www.springwire.us) is a national non-profit organization that provides communication technologies and information services to more than 50,000 people living in poverty in the United States and Canada, through a network of more than 1,400 social service agencies in 320 communities. Using these tools and services, Springwire enables those facing poverty and homelessness to directly connect to critical resources to secure employment, housing, health care, social services and other forms of support.

Lifeline Provides Affordable No-Frills Voice Service: The Lifeline program has been in existence since 1985 and evolved to include wireless service in 2005. The current Lifeline

Foundation and, unless obvious from the text, are not intended to reflect the views of individual Foundation officers, directors, or advisors.

program provides a discount on voice service via traditional landline local service or wireless service. Carriers are approved by states or the FCC to participate in the Lifeline program. The wireline Lifeline phone service provides a discounted rate on traditional phone service to the home. Wireless Lifeline is an evolving product in terms of number of minutes covered by the \$9.25 per month covered by the Lifeline program. Typically it is a modest prepaid service requiring no deposit, often including a free handset and 250 minutes a month (a little over 4 hours of phone service a month for incoming and outgoing calls). Lifeline households can purchase additional minutes to add to their plan. The current Lifeline program does not cover data, but there is a small Lifeline broadband pilot that was part of the recent reform decision and is rolling out now.

Lifeline Enhances the Network Effect: The communications network has more value the more people are connected to it and access is increasingly important. Expectation of instantaneous connection has become the societal norm for those who can readily afford smart phones and broadband connectivity via multiple devices. It is increasingly an expectation of employers to readily reach employees or perspective employees. Yet, having reliable access to a wireline and wireless connection is not readily affordable for households of modest means and the Lifeline program only covers one phone service per household. Even with its limitations, Lifeline plays an important and unique role in the provision of basic essential voice connectivity for low-income households.

The Importance of the Lifeline Program: The Lifeline program provides no-frills basic phone service to households at or below 135% of poverty (around \$26,400 a year for a family of 3) and households participating in needs-based assistance programs such as Medicaid, SNAP SSI, Public Housing Assistance, LIHEAP, TANF or the National School Lunch Free Lunch Program. Recent surveys of wireless Lifeline customers show:

- Around half are over 45 to 50 years of age, with a substantial percent over sixty.²
- Veterans participate.³
- Consumers with disabilities participate.⁴
- A large percent are unemployed or underemployed and use their Lifeline service to find work.⁵
- Lifeline service provides access to healthcare.⁶

² See Sprint, Ex Parte Presentation, FCC WC Docket 11-42, April 10, 2013 (“Sprint April 10, 2013 ex parte”)(“60% of customers are over the age of 45, nearly a third of customers are over 55 years old.”); TracFone Ex Parte Presentation, FCC WC Docket 11-42, WC Docket 03-109, April 5, 2013 (“TracFone April 5, 2013 ex parte”)(“43% are older than age 56 (nearly 20% are older than 66”); TAG Mobile, Ex Parte Presentation, WC Docket 11-43, April 17, 2013 (“TAG ex parte April 17, 2013”)(“Over 47% of respondents are 50 or older and nearly 16% are 60 or older.”)

³ See TAG ex parte April 17, 2013 (nearly 13% of their customers are veterans); and TracFone April 5, 2013 ex parte (10% of their Lifeline customers are veterans).

⁴ See Sprint April 10, 2013 ex parte (36% have disabilities)

⁵ See Sprint April 10, 2013 ex parte (32% report they are temporarily unemployed and over half their customers use their Lifeline service to stay in touch with their current employer or to seek employment); TracFone April 5, 2013 ex parte (26% are employed, but only 13% of those are full-time; 70% use their Lifeline service to look for work or remain employed); TAG ex parte April 17, 2013 (less than 26% are employed and over half of those employed are only employed part-time; 86% use their Lifeline service to look for work or remain employed)

- Lifeline service provides an introduction to wireless service.⁷

Low-Income households move more often than non-low-income households: It is vital that Lifeline remain technology neutral and include wireless service, particularly because of the high levels of geographic mobility. Certain populations move more frequently than others. According to the US Census, over half of households below poverty moved and almost two-thirds of renters moved within a 5-year period. African-American, Asian and Hispanic or Latino households move more often than white households. The unemployed move more often than the employed. Over half of separated households and 40% of divorced households move within a 5-year period compared to 18% for married households.⁸

Low-income households resort to doubling-up and using shelters for housing: scenarios where more than one eligible household can live at the same postal address: A sad reality for households with limited means is an inability to afford housing. The bleak economic effects of the recession resulted in an 11.4% increase in the number of people doubling up between 2007 and 2010 (affecting 22 million households).⁹ There are also group housing situations, such as single-room occupancies (SROs), nursing homes, group homes for those with disabilities, domestic violence shelters, where the dwelling units may not have their own US Postal service address¹⁰ although the occupants are separate households. These are amongst the most fragile of low-income households and a group most in need of wireless Lifeline service to achieve self-sufficiency or independence.

Lifeline service is a lifeline for the working poor and the unemployed: A substantial number of Lifeline participants are unemployed or underemployed. A stable phone number is essential for a low-wage worker to pick up extra shifts or jobs. Phone service is also important to coordinate transportation to and from work and to notify an employer if work will be missed due to an emergency, thus helping to maintain employment. If the worker has young children, the phone is important for coordinating childcare logistics and to remain in contact in case the child is sick or in an emergency.¹¹

Lifeline enhances the efficient operation of other assistance programs: Increasingly social services supports are accessed electronically, through centralized call centers and internet sites. While Lifeline program is limited to voice service, this provides access to critical programs, allowing checking on the status of benefits, re-certification of program eligibility, obtaining notice of trainings, interviews, work assignments, etc. It is worthy of investigation to determine whether the currently offered 250 minutes (a little over 4 hours a month) is adequate, given this trend in program delivery, especially where wait times can be long and call backs are common.

⁶ Sprint April 10, 2013 ex parte (54% use their Lifeline service to stay in touch with doctors and for other health care-related purposes).

⁷ Sprint April 10, 2013 ex parte (nearly 50% are new to wireless service).

⁸ David K. Ihrke and Carol S. Faber, *Geographical Mobility: 2005 to 2010*, U.S. Census (Dec. 2012) at pp. 4-5.

⁹ Michael Fletcher, *Census Bureau: Millions more Americans shared households in face of recession*, Washington Post (June 20, 2012).

¹⁰ We note that in this time of extreme budget challenges, it is unlikely the US Postal service would be able to accommodate the creation of more mailing addresses to accommodate the Lifeline program.

¹¹ See David Super, Professor, Georgetown University, FCC Ex Parte in WC Docket No. 11-42; WC Docket No. 03-109; CC Docket No. 96-45 (Nov. 7, 2011).

Other agencies see the value of the Lifeline program in their administration of services. The Department of Veterans Affairs, Homeless Veterans Initiative Office asked the FCC to consider establishing automatic eligibility for Lifeline for veterans participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Veterans Program. The arguments are applicable to a range of existing assistance programs:

Lifeline Telephone services will allow the Department of Veteran Affairs and its community partners to expand outreach access and coordinate essential services for Veterans and Veteran Families. It will assist in overcoming many of the Veteran unique barriers to preventing and eliminating Veteran homelessness such as receiving appropriate healthcare and surmounting the disproportionately high unemployment rate among Veterans in a very competitive, economy driven market. In addition, such services provide more ready access to other supportive services, as well as preventative and emergency services. In addition, it permits case workers to provide more frequent contact with this most vulnerable population and therefore, eliminate the isolation that places them at increased risk for homelessness.¹²

Lifeline also helps the medical community provide care: Health care providers treating low-income patients can find it difficult to follow-up with their patients without reliable phone service. A pediatrician who practices in the inner-city and whose patients are very young and fragile described why the Lifeline service is so important. When she treats a 2-year old with a congenital heart condition, developmental delay and a failure to thrive, she needs to be able to reach the parents to arrange for medical transport and delivery of special formula, and ensure that medications are taken as prescribed to avoid serious complications. The ability of parents of medically fragile young children to reach her immediately when there is a problem can mean the difference between treating a developing pneumonia with medication or treating the child in the pediatric intensive care unit with severe respiratory distress.¹³

Lifeline is essential in emergency situations: The no-frills Lifeline voice service is important for protecting public health and safety. This includes the ability to call 911 for help in an emergency as well as the ability to be contacted (e.g., the ability of the school to contact a parent or guardian when a child is sick or injured).¹⁴ Increasingly communities are relying on reverse 911 to warn residents in emergencies.

The Lifeline Program has Undergone Serious Reforms That Should be Allowed to Play Out: The recent Lifeline reform has put the program on more secure footing and made it more

¹² See Peter Dougherty, Assistant Executive Director, Homeless Veterans Initiative Office, Department of Veteran Affairs, FCC Notice of ex parte communication (Aug. 23, 2011).

¹³ See Health Perspective: Dr. Genevieve Preer, pediatric medical director for the Medical-Legal Partnership – Boston at Boston Medical Center, pp. 18-20 attached to the Reply Comments of Consumer Groups in Response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Lifeline and Link-Up Reforms and Modernization, in the FCC WC Docket No. 11-42, CC Docket No. 96-45, and WC Docket No. 03-109 (May 25, 2011).

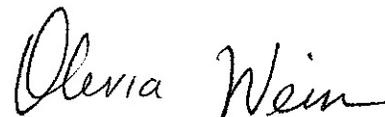
¹⁴ See Tiffany L. Craig, The Lifeline Phone Program: When answering a cry for help requires a phone call, Washington Post letter to the editor (April 15, 2013)(mental health therapist in Baltimore says that Lifeline would have helped secure timely care an reduced trauma when a 3rd grader tried to commit suicide and the mother did not have phone service).

uniform between states. The FCC eliminated the Link Up program and ramped down toll limitation service. The Link Up program was created to help cover the cost of establishing a wireline connection in a home and toll limitation was designed to avoid expensive long distance charges that could make the phone bill unaffordable. The FCC tightened enrollment procedures for consumers. Obtaining and retaining Lifeline service has become more burdensome for consumers which may well account for enrollment drop-off. Lifeline applicants must provide documentation of eligibility (e.g., proof of SNAP participation) before being approved for Lifeline service. Consumers must also re-certify eligibility annually or they will be de-enrolled from the program. Applicants must also provide their date of birth, partial social security number in addition to their address for a duplicates check. If the address has other Lifeline households, then the applicant must fill out a Household worksheet to determine eligibility. There are a number of certifications made under penalty of perjury under these new reforms.

Carriers also have new requirements to prevent waste, fraud and abuse. They must now clearly disclose if a particular service is a Lifeline service. It was not always clear in the past whether a particular product was part of the Lifeline program. Carriers must disclose that there is only one Lifeline phone per household permitted under the program rules. An officer of the company must certify under penalty of perjury that the company is in compliance with the Lifeline rules, has obtained valid certifications from the applicants, and that the information in the monthly reimbursement request from the universal services fund is true, accurate and complete. The carrier must also de-enroll a customer from Lifeline if a prepaid wireless phone is unused for 60 days, if the Lifeline customer fails to re-certify eligibility, and in the case of duplicate service. The reform also includes the creation of a national duplicates database that is expected to be constructed sometime this year.

These reforms are dramatic and drastic and targeted to address the pre-reform Lifeline program weaknesses. Lifeline is a vital program that protects health and safety and helps struggling households achieve independence. These reforms should be given a chance to operate before subjecting this vital program to disruption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Wein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Olivia Wein,
Staff Attorney
National Consumer Law Center

On behalf of its low-income clients and the Joint Consumers listed above.

April 22, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: Lifeline Telephones are Essential for the Public Safety, Economy and the Health and Well-being of all Members of our Society

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

The undersigned organizations, representing communities of color, low-income customers and rural communities, are writing to express our support for the federal Lifeline Telephone program. Lifeline telephone service is an essential element of the national, statutory goal of promoting universal phone service so that "Consumers in all regions of the Nation, including low-income consumers...." have access to modern telecommunications service.¹ Lifeline is vital to ensuring that low income families can communicate with employers and potential employers, health care, schools, social services, veterans' support providers and public safety resources.

The Lifeline program is not perfect and needs to be improved. But the notion portrayed in some press reports that the Lifeline program primarily exists to promote fraud and wasteful use of funds is inaccurate, misleading and directs attention away from legitimate problems that must be addressed to improve the effectiveness of the program by ensuring that eligible consumers are able to enroll.

It is true that the size of the Lifeline fund has risen significantly, largely due to the growth in pre-paid wireless. There are good reasons for this. Pre-paid wireless is an important option for households that require a cell phone to secure and retain employment, or that must relocate periodically. There have been well documented cases of pre-paid wireless companies collecting Lifeline surcharges for phones in the possession of households that also subscribe to another Lifeline service. But what the press reports fail to mention is that while there are a handful of customers that flout their possession of multiple Lifeline phones, relatively speaking these

¹ Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. 254(b)(3)

situations are few and far between. By far, the biggest impact on the fund is caused by unethical business practices on the part of pre-paid wireless providers, practices that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has already taken steps to eliminate.

In a competitive market, a customer should be able to stop using a pre-paid service and switch to another service. That is a perfectly legitimate practice for all customers, including those on Lifeline. The over-draws on the Lifeline fund have primarily resulted from the original carrier continuing to collect a subsidy from customers who have discontinued the service and from unscrupulous free phone give-a-ways by pre-paid wireless companies. These companies are treating Lifeline as a profit center, to the detriment of all customers. The FCC has taken steps to prevent this in its recent 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, creating a national database to allow carriers to determine whether a customer is already receiving Lifeline service.² Several states have taken action to clamp down on unscrupulous providers.³ More time is needed before Congress should conclude that these reforms are insufficient.

We, the undersigned organizations applaud the efforts to stop unscrupulous telecom companies from milking the fund. All customers pay to support the Lifeline fund, including the working poor, those on low incomes who are not quite poor enough to be eligible for Lifeline. But the reforms should not impede the ability of households that qualify for Lifeline to receive the service.

Lost in the discussion is the fact that the major problems with Lifeline fraud are largely limited to a handful of states. The FCC and state regulators have moved forcefully to crack down on the companies involved.

² In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, WC Docket No.11-42; Lifeline and Link Up, WC Docket No. 03-109; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Adopted January 31, 2012.

³ See, for example, Indiana Regulatory Commission, *In the Matter of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's Investigation of TerraCom, Inc. and its Compliance with the Orders of this Commission*, Cause No. 4423, April 17, 2013; *Oklahoma Corporation Commission staff begins review of low-income phone subsidy program*, [NewsOK](#) (The Oklahoman), February 21, 2013, [NewsOK Oklahoma show cause orders](#); *Public Service Commission bans phone company, investigates reports of fraud*, [Wisconsin State Journal](#), December 1, 2011, http://host.madison.com/news/local/public-service-commission-bans-phone-company-investigates-reports-of-fraud/article_365f3388-1c7d-11e1-b8eb-001871e3ce6c.html

More importantly, the most recent publicly available data on Lifeline subscribership prepared by the Universal Service Administrative Committee (USAC), shows that in 44 states, **50% or fewer households who are eligible for Lifeline actually receive the service. And in 17 states, 20% or fewer eligible households receive Lifeline service.** Millions of people who are eligible for Lifeline - seniors, veterans, disabled people, low-income families - do not receive the service.⁴

While the FCC's reforms are no doubt well intentioned, they have had the unfortunate effect of bumping many eligible customers off of the Lifeline program. This is partially due to confusion while the database is being put together and partially due to new requirements that make it difficult or impossible for those who are Lifeline eligible to receive the service.

A key factor is the requirement that Lifeline customers re-certify and the failure to accept automatic enrollment of households in other low income programs. This has frustrated the efforts of states to increase the numbers of low income households receiving Lifeline. Low income households are, by definition, already under a great deal of stress as they struggle to survive in a difficult economy. Many Lifeline customers must move frequently. Being bumped unceremoniously off of Lifeline and failing to recertify is portrayed by some as an indication of fraud, but in reality it is the result of having to cope with yet another hurdle to receiving an essential service.

Moreover, many eligible households do not receive Lifeline due to the new requirement that Lifeline customers provide Social Security Numbers (SSNs). Lifeline should be available to all eligible households, including those who do not have SSNs. The Congress is in the process of crafting immigration legislation that will provide a path to citizenship for immigrants who are not in the country legally. There are many low income households in this country who cannot provide SSNs, who contribute greatly to our society and economy, who cannot receive Lifeline even though they are eligible.

Lifeline telephone service is vital to the ability of all people to participate effectively in our society. We support the efforts of the FCC and states to enact reforms for preventing unscrupulous companies from taking undue advantage of Lifeline subsidy funds. But the program needs to be fixed. The FCC needs to work with states and with low-income consumer advocates to ensure that the millions of Americans who need affordable communication services can use the Lifeline

⁴ Universal Service Administrative Committee, 2010 Participation Rates by State, [USAC 2010 Participation Rates by State](#)

program. Above all, Congress should recognize that Lifeline is a vital program that benefits not only those who need Lifeline, but all of society.

Sincerely,

Center for Media Justice

The Utility Reform Network



Additional signers:

1. Media Action Grassroots Network
2. Art Is Change
3. Center for Rural Strategies
4. The Center for Social Inclusion
5. Central City Single Residence Only Collaborative
6. Centro La Familia Advocacy Services Inc.
7. Chicago Media Action
8. Community Media Services
9. Community Media Workshop
10. Congregation Organized for Prophetic Engagement - COPE
11. Global Action Project
12. Generation Justice
13. Institute for Local Self-Reliance
14. Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California
15. Main Street Project
16. Media Alliance
17. Media Literacy Project
18. Open Access Connections
19. The Praxis Project
20. Southwest Workers Union
21. Rural Broadband Policy Group
22. Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center
23. Working Narratives

consumer action

Education and advocacy since 1971

Why Lifeline Works

What the Advocates are Saying

These comments were compiled from a Consumer Action petition sent out to communities across the country. More than 1,000 advocates and individuals have signed the petition as of close of business April 23, 2013. The full petition is provided as a separate document. We have selected some of the comments to provide a brief overview of why the Wireless Lifeline Program works and of the difference the service is making across the nation.

- “As a community action agency, in providing various resources to the poor, a telephone is the "lifeline" to important services (medical, school, job search, and other daily emergencies.) Many of these individuals are in hard-to-reach areas of services and their only means of contact for many services is via "affordable" telephone services.” –Community Action Partnership
- “I work with veterans and find they need this service to stay in touch. They often lose their cell phone service because they can't pay their bill. It is vital for us to stay in touch with our vets to make sure they get their services.”
-Eden Information & Referral
- “We serve the working poor community whose lives are dependent on wireless phones. Due to difficult circumstances, many of our families live in slum conditions, have to move often to follow job possibilities and their lifestyle is not conducive to land lines. Yet, it is critical that they be able to stay connected to loved ones. Mobile phones are the vehicle for this - do not remove this critical benefit.” –Centro Latino de Education Popular
- “As a case manager I assist numerous clients who are very low income. We need this program. Our families need this program. Without this program our families would really be lacking the connection with the school and their children. I support this program.” –Norwood St. Healthy Start Program
- “The Lifeline Program is a vital support for vulnerable people in our community. As a physician at the county hospital, I treat many patients whose access to communication services is vital for their health and need services like this.” – Nicholas N.

- “It is essential for low-income individuals to have a cell phone for safety and to pursue employment and housing. As a Social Worker I have seen the value of these phones time and time again to help people move towards independence.” –Lindsay C.
- “We have 32 frail seniors using this valuable system. Please do not cut these services.” –Cecilia M.
- “Wireless is becoming necessary for everyone in this country but many are excluded because they are low income or live in a rural area.” –Carol P.
- “Wireless helps low-income families to find employment, stay in contact with schools, contact healthcare providers and seek help in an emergency. Low-incomes families should have the same opportunities as everyone else.” –Audrey P.
- “It has been vital for my clients to keep up appointments, follow up with their case managers, find and keep jobs, check on their children, etc. There are no other alternatives such as pay phones anymore. Do not cut this important and life saving device!” –Isabel K.
- “This has been one of the most successful antipoverty programs developed. With fairly low administrative overhead, in a revenue neutral way, it provides millions of people with the essential tool of communication for economic and social engagement -- the phone.” –Harold F.
- “I have an 85 year old mother who lives on \$1,100 a month. I want her to be safe. The Lifeline phone program can make that happen for her and others like her.” –Marma M.
- “Without Lifeline, I wouldn't have been able to call my sons' school. I wouldn't have been able to schedule doctor's appointments. Their father, who was active duty military, wouldn't have been able to call them. Their grandparents wouldn't have been able to call them. Two years after my divorce was granted, I returned to college full time. Without Lifeline, I wouldn't have been able to call my professors, or pick up extra hours at my part-time, on-campus jobs.”- Donnarae M.
- “This truly is a lifeline for so many people who may live in rural areas, like Idaho, where there are long distances to medical facilities. NOT paid for with tax payer money, it is one of the real benefits of technology for those in need.” –Liz C.
- “I work in human services and have seen how having a telephone number where an employer can reach you will have an impact on obtaining a job. If they can't reach you, you don't get offered the job!” –Victoria N.

- “I work with domestic violence clients who often use these phones as a true ‘lifeline.’” –Lisa M.
- “For many low-income families and to many battered women in shelters, this is the only thing that maintains their contact with their loved ones and authorities.” –Yussuf I.
- “Low income individuals in rural America require access through telecommunications largely because that is often the only means of connectivity. They cannot access public transportation for face-to-face connectivity because it does not exist.” –Maria W.
- “Because communication is a basic right. Lifeline provides an opportunity for the neediest Americans to access jobs and education and to communicate with their families.” –Jessica G.

Individuals from the Following Organizations Signed On to Consumer Action’s Wireless Lifeline Petition:

- Latino Economic Development Corp. (DC)
- National Consumers League (DC)
- Arizona Consumers Council (AZ)
- City of Phoenix Family Services Center (AZ)
- Asian Law Alliance (CA)
- California Capital Financial Dev. Corp.
- Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CA)
- Center for Aging Resources (CFAR)
- Centro Latino de Education Popular (CA)
- Chinatown Child Development Center (CA)
- Chinatown Services Center (CA)
- ClearPoint Credit Counseling Solutions (CA)
- Community Action Partnership (CA)
- Community Legal Research (CA)
- Community Technology Network (CA)
- Community Union (CA)
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Kern and Tulare Counties (CA)
- Eden Information and Referral (CA)
- Enhancing Forward Action Inc. (CA)
- Haven Neighborhood Services (CA)
- High Desert Multi-Cultural Coalition (CA)
- Independent Living Resource Center, San Francisco (CA)
- Norwood Street Healthy Start Program (CA)

- Oakland Lao Family Community (CA)
- Pacific Beach Taylor Branch Library (CA)
- San Joaquin Country Aging & Community Services (CA)
- Solomon and Brenner, LLP (CA)
- Temple Community Outreach Church (CA)
- Watts Century Latino Organization (CA)
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service of West Florida (FL)
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Savannah (GA)
- Chinese American Service League (IL)
- Helen M. Plum Memorial Library (IL)
- Maryland CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Campaign (MD)
- Family and Community Development Center (MI)
- Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids (MI)
- Jewish Vocational Services (Southfield Office), (MI)
- University of Minnesota Extension Services (MN)
- R.A.A!- Ready, Aim, Advocate! Committee (MO)
- Newark Now (NJ)
- Airman & Family Readiness Center (NM)
- Fair Housing Council of CNY (NY)
- Community Link (NC)
- North Carolina Fair Housing Center (NC)
- Erie County Human Relations Commission (PA)
- Binghamton Development Corp. (TN)
- Georgetown Housing Authority (TX)
- Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas (TX)
- Path Mark Ministries Inc. (TX)
- Sheltering Arms Senior Services (TX)
- South Texas Civil Rights Project (TX)
- Cornerstone Financial Education (UT)
- Arlington Employment Center (VA)
- TACID (Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities) (WA)
- Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc. (WI)

For more information about this document or the Save Wireless Lifeline Petition, contact:

Linda Sherry
 Director, National Priorities
 Consumer Action
linda.sherry@consumer-action.org
 202-544-3088

Petition to "Save Wireless Lifeline!" The petition was created by Consumer Action (www.consumer-action.org)

First Name	Last Name	Zip	State	Organization	Comments	Date of signature
Kathy	Li	94105	CA		I know many people especially seniors who depend on this service in SF Bay Area.	4/12/13 11:10
Linda	Sherry	20003	DC	Consumer Action		4/12/13 11:18
isabel	Mercado	78596	TX		Because people should have a cell phone for all emergencies.	4/12/13 11:28
Linda	Roberts	60148	IL	Helen M. Plum Memorial Library		4/12/13 11:29
Bernard	Salzman	45761			We ALL need a lifeline.	4/12/13 11:30
Kristelyn	Berry	20011	DC		I support the Lifeline program because low income should have the same access as others.	4/12/13 11:30
Alma	Palencia	92084	CA		Very needed people use it temporarily to be able to set appointments for job interviews...wich eventually will give them financial stability and don't need anymore that service (or be able to qualify for it)	4/12/13 11:31
Jacquelyn	Gibson	33172	FL			4/12/13 11:32
judy	hunter	95825	CA		Connection through phone is vital especially now that most pay phones are history	4/12/13 11:34
Gwenyth	Urrutia-Peterson	98112				4/12/13 11:35
Maria A	Rodriguez	93727	CA	ClearPoint Credit Counseling Solutions (Fresno)	I support the low income wireless lifeline program because this allows families to have access to communication at an affordable cost. This is especially valuable in rural areas where line phones are no longer available. Seniors living on fix income also benefit.	4/12/13 11:35
Ben	Lau	60616	IL	Chinese American Service League	Many low-income individuals rely on the program to stay contact with important resources.	4/12/13 11:37

Erica	Cook	75904	TX	Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas	We provide referrals and applications for our low income clients with disabilities and other barriers in order for them to have a phone number to put on job applications when going through our job placement program. This is an essential part of getting a job, so having our clients not have the ability to get a phone through this program can really inhibit their ability to work.	4/12/13 11:38
Carol	Dunlap	23229	VA		I work with many low-income individuals who depend on Lifeline to live safely in thier homes. It allows them to search for jobs and conduct day to day business.	4/12/13 11:40
Al	Alvarez	07104	NJ	Newark Now	As a client advocate, I see the need for this program. It's needed by low income folks for job search and related reasons.	4/12/13 11:41
Yussuf	Issa	37217			To many families with low income and to many battered women in sheltners this is the only thing that maintains their contact with their loved ones and authorities.	4/12/13 11:42
David	Hill	61761	IL			4/12/13 11:42
Kuanyin	Lin	91754	CA	Chinatown Services Center / Monterey Park		4/12/13 11:43
Edith	Gooden-Thompson	33324	FL		Without it many seniors and disabled adults would be shut off from communication in case of emergencies	4/12/13 11:45
Tammy	Byrnes	99205	WA		Low income people need support in finding work, ability to call phyiscans, having contact with child providers whether it is school or child care. And more important I like to see the mentally ill who are on disabliltiy the right to have low income phones. Many it is the only way for them to have contact with family.	4/12/13 11:46
Irene	Moore	49037	MI		My 84 year old mother use this phone, she would not otherwise have a phone, because she can't afford one on her own	4/12/13 11:46

Irene	Moore	49037	MI		My 84 year old mother use this phone, she would not otherwise have a phone, because she can't afford one on her own	4/12/13 11:46
Chi	Cheng	95815	CA		So employers can contact them and for emergency purposes.	4/12/13 11:48
Angie	Chan	60616	IL		Help low-incme people	4/12/13 11:49
Reggie	Dunbar II	30343	GA		Make and receive life affective and event calls.	4/12/13 11:50
Andrea D	Wieland	80634	CO			4/12/13 11:51
Harold	Feld	20036	DC		This has been one of the most successful antipoverty programs developed. With fairly low administrative overhead, in a revenue neutral way, it provides millions of people with the essential tool of communication for economic and social engagement -- the phone.	4/12/13 11:53
Jessica	Gonzalez	22306			Because communication is a basic right. Lifeline provides an oppportunity for the neediest Americans to access jobs and education and to communicate with their families.	4/12/13 11:54
Monica	Payne	34434	FL		People need these cell phones to stay connected as well as to get help in an emergency.	4/12/13 11:54
KIM	RICHARDSON	07104	NJ			4/12/13 11:55
Venus	Kong	94116	CA	Kai Ming, Inc.		4/12/13 11:55
Deborah	Lowe Muramoto	95812	CA	California Capital Financial Dev. Corp.		4/12/13 11:57
Hoang	Ho	94607	CA	Catholic Charities of the East Bay (Oakland - Main Office)	Yes. Request limit for Family plan up to 10 lines not limit only 5 lines. Also In family plan, internet for whole plan, not for each phone. Thanks, HH	4/12/13 12:02
Holly	Duong	95122	CA	Asian Law Alliance (Santa Clara County)	stay connected to schools and seek help in an emergency.	4/12/13 12:03
John	Breyault	20006	DC	National Consumers League		4/12/13 12:03
Jan	Simpson	20009			Working with the social service sector, I have repeatedly heard what a crucial service Lifeline is. It supports not just emergency communications, but also job hunting, banking, counseling services, etc.	4/12/13 12:03
jeff	kirin	94133				4/12/13 12:04

Sylvia	Watford	23666	VA			4/12/13 12:06
Shani	Nelson	94606				4/12/13 12:09
Victoria	Nystrom	49503	MI	Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids	Serving individual with barriers to employment, this is the only contact method available by which potential employers can contact them.	4/12/13 12:10
Nathan	Salazar	49519	MI		I work in human services and have seen how having a telephone number where an employer can reach you will have an impact on obtaining a job. If they can't reach you, you don't get offered the job!	4/12/13 12:13
Alia	Atlas	02474	MA			4/12/13 12:15
Chuck	Sherwood	02660	MA			4/12/13 12:16
Patricia	Sturdevant	95818	CA		It is often seniors' and other low income people's only cway to connect with the outside world.	4/12/13 12:21
Monica	Agerton	32504	FL	CCCS / West Florida (Pensacola)	It is a necessary tool that could save lives for a majority of our population	4/12/13 12:21
Paula	Blumm	49503	MI		I work with low income people who are trying to become employed. A phone number is absolutely necessary for a job seeker, so a prospective employer may contact them. However, until a person is working, they cannot afford a cell phone and usually would not even qualify for a cell phone plan because they are not working. The Lifeline phones close this gap and help people get back to work.	4/12/13 12:23
Margarita	Chavez	92707	CA		Having phone is not a luxury is a need for emergencies. Specially for low income families with all the budget cuts.	4/12/13 12:24
Marsha	Doman-Masters	98466	WA	TACID		4/12/13 12:27
Rita	Acueto-Colton	92415	CA	Community Action Partnership (San Bernardino Co.)	As a community action agency, in providing various resources to the poor, a telephone is the "lifeline" to important services (medical, school, job search, and other daily emergencies). Many of these individuals are in hard-to-reach areas of services and their only means of contact to many services is via "affordable" telephone services.	4/12/13 12:28

Patricia	Walker	06095	CT			4/12/13 12:30
Sean	McLaughlin	95502	CA		Save the Reagan/Bush phones from the Obama clampdown! Preserve, protect and expand the Lifeline program!	4/12/13 12:30
Alex	Pere	90013	CA		Elderly and college students can benefit from this service.	4/12/13 12:31
Kenneth	Reed	49534	MI		There are those in the community that absolutely need help and it is our mandated obligation to provide what help we can.	4/12/13 12:32
Pamela	Glassoff	94541	CA	Eden Information & Referral	I work with veterans and find they need this service to stay in touch. They often lose their cell phone service because they can't pay their bill. It is vital for us to stay in touch with our vets to make sure they get their services.	4/12/13 12:35
Christopher	Mitchell	55406	MN		We all benefit by being in communication with each other.	4/12/13 12:44
David	Mandel	95811	CA			4/12/13 12:47
Steven	Chernoff	22182			Wireless mobility is a crucial tool in providing low-income individuals with the means to look for work and participate in the economy.	4/12/13 12:53
ADRIANNE	BARRETT	13203	NY	Fair Housing Council of CNY	FOR ALL THE REASONS STATED ABOVE.	4/12/13 13:00
Phyllis	Rowe	85014	AZ	Arizona Consumers Council	Communication is most important for low income seniors who need the availability to contact help when needed.	4/12/13 13:04
Mari	Riddle	90056	CA	Centro Latino de Education Popular	We serve the working poor community whose lives are dependent on wireless phones. Due to difficult circumstances, many of our families live in slum conditions, have to move often to follow job possibilities and their lifestyle is not conducive to land lines. Yet, it is critical that they be able to stay connected to loved ones. Mobile phones are the vehicle for this - do not remove this critical benefit.	4/12/13 13:05
Hana	Toma	94607	CA		It helps many low-income families get access to telephones at a reasonable fee.	4/12/13 13:13
E.T.	Davidoff	02148				4/12/13 13:20

Kerry	Freeman	85007	AZ	City of Phoenix (Family Services Center)	It has been very beneficial to some of my clients who are low-income.	4/12/13 13:21
judith	hellerstein	20008	DC			4/12/13 13:22
Lynette	Mills	49507			I work as an Employment Specialist for those diagnosed with mental illness. Many of those individuals are on fixed incomes, and benefit greatly from the lifeline phones. The loss of access to these phones could be disastrous for them, as well as others who need this mode of communication.	4/12/13 13:23
Laura	Acevedo	85051			As a caseworker I see the need for this program.	4/12/13 13:27
carmin	bonilla	93291			People living in poverty are living in a state of extreme vulnerability--having a phone means accessing medical care, employment, a support system and even emergency assistance. We must continue this basic service as a means of not only helping these people--but to also keep a lid on the extreme cost of their care medical and otherwise--being even a higher cost to taxpayers when situations get out of control.	4/12/13 13:39
Francisca	Silva	85007	AZ		We housed low income residents. The phone wireless lifeline program is instrumental for them to be able to call physicians, pharmacy, 911 and love ones when available.	4/12/13 13:53
Cecilia	Maislin	93513	CA		We have 32 frail seniors using this valuable system. Please do not cut these services.	4/12/13 13:53
Lindsay	Capel	49505	MI		It is essential for low-income individuals to have a cell phone for safety and to pursue employment and housing. As a Social Worker I have seen the value of these phones time and time again to help people move towards independence.	4/12/13 13:54
Ken	McEldowney	94105	CA	Consumer Action	It's a vital part of the safety net for low income consumers and enables them to get help in emergencies and access jobs.	4/12/13 13:57

Joan	Ellison	91101	CA	Center for Aging Resources (CFAR)	I work with well-meaning folk who are homeless or who have a residence, but with very limited income. Telephone connection is critical so that individuals can keep in contact with medical necessities and to maintain and to support community integration.	4/12/13 14:02
Willie Ruth	Gibson	38112	TN	Binghampton Development Corp.		4/12/13 14:09
Carol	Pierson	94702	CA		Wireless is becoming necessary for everyone in this country but many are excluded because they are low income or live in a rural area.	4/12/13 14:14
Kimmy	DeVries	64110				4/12/13 14:23
Barbara	Grantland	80015 4034	CO		Simply because IT IS what it says IT IS. IT IS A LIFELINE	4/12/13 14:30
Jackie	Maruhashi	95112	CA	Asian Law Alliance (Santa Clara County)	Many low-income persons have unstable housing and do not have access to land telephone lines. As a result, they need wireless phones to keep in contact with others or to call 911 in case of an emergency. Without wireless Lifeline, these persons will become isolated and are at risk of more serious problems should an emergency arise.	4/12/13 14:31
T.S.	Wu	94040	CA		It's vital for senior and low-income people.	4/12/13 14:32
Dana	Leslie	02906	RI			4/12/13 14:33
Barbara	Brown	07042	NJ		It is needed, especial for seniors	4/12/13 14:35
Jessica	Williams	07043	NJ		I support the low-income wireless lifeline program because it gives the less fortunate an opportunity to afford wireless services without putting their funds in jeopardy, this is important especially for seniors who could were previously not allowed this advantage and need to stay in touch with their love ones.	4/12/13 14:38
Nancy	Lim-Yee	94108	CA		Wireless Lifeline program provides affordable connections to low-income individuals who could not otherwise afford this.	4/12/13 14:49
Susan	Bock	84108	UT			4/12/13 14:53

Gwen	Battle	07042	NJ		They need help.	4/12/13 15:00
Beverly	Chan	94133			It is the only way for low income individuals to access communications.	4/12/13 15:17
Lisa	McFarren	16335	PA		I work with domestic violence clients who often use these phones as a true "lifeline."	4/12/13 15:17
Lenora	Rand	60304	IL		Low income folks need to be able to connect with services and schools and jobs. This is an important aid to their survival. Please do not remove it because of "politics."	4/12/13 15:55
Kathi	Ashmore	53711	WI			4/12/13 16:04
Richard	Reeve	31406	GA	CCCS (The Savannah Area)		4/12/13 16:09
Erika	Toriz	90041	CA	Haven Neighborhood Services		4/12/13 16:39
Jean	Harris	92108	CA		Closing the 'digital divide' is imperative... when we reach out to help others we all become stronger. Therefore providing this service empowers all of us and enhances our technological ability as a nation!!	4/12/13 17:36
Donna	Moss	22213			This crucial subsidy keeps low-income families connected to schools and job opportunities and to E-911 - all important connections for everyone.	4/12/13 17:54
Pam	Latham	80121				4/12/13 18:13
Sharene	Davis	92109	CA	Pacific Beach Taylor Branch Library		4/12/13 18:35
Deanna	Cater	80127	CO		All disabled and low income people deserve to have access to wireless lifeline.	4/12/13 19:01
Leticia	Lee	90007	CA	Norwood St. Healthy Start Prog.	As a Case Manager I assist numerous clients that are very low income. This program would really benefit all the familie that I assist. We need this program. Our families need this program and with out this program our families would really be lacking the connection with the school and their children. I support this program.	4/12/13 19:28
Betty	Yu	11201	NY			4/12/13 21:05

Edward	Arnold	80304	CO		I am the parent of a child with developmental disabilities. Thus, I understand how important lifeline is to people with disabilities, who are usually quite isolated.	4/13/13 9:25
Wendy	Lee	94542	CA		If we are compassionate and care other other people, we need to provide the very basic, minimum essentials for them. It could be a matter of life and death, not a luxury.	4/13/13 10:11
Marma	McIntee	53095	WI		I have a 85 year old mother who lives on \$1100 a month. I want her to be safe. the Lifeline phone program can make that happen for her and others like her.	4/13/13 10:50
Sidney	Elkin	33140	FL		This provides low-income families the opportunity to have phone connection for emergencies. Many only use wireless phones since they cannot affrd both land and wireless.	4/13/13 11:51
Jane	Purtle	72701			I support Wireless Lifeline because I work with low-income people who need this kind of service. Some are trying to find jobs and others have children they need to communicate with.	4/13/13 14:22
mike	chattom	90222	CA	Community Legal Research	Well, it gives mobile and communication access to the poor and low income people to the communities that need the service most.	4/13/13 15:10
Janet	Tom	94115	CA		Help low-income people have access to a phone so they call for information, help, keep in touch with their loved oens.	4/13/13 18:37
Stella	Adams	27707	NC	North Carolina Fair Housing Centre	I have seen the positive impact this has had on low income communities, with wireless lifeline there is no need to go to dangerous payphone outlets for emergency services. Children and low wealth families in need of emergency and basic services can access those services immediately. This is a vital service and should be continued.	4/13/13 19:12
Paula	Bock	98117			It helps people in emergencies and it helps them find work, communicate with their children's teachers and connect with resources and the community.	4/13/13 19:45

ROSEZETTA	EICHELBERGER	63136	MO	R.A.A! - Ready, Aim, Advocate! Committee	It helps low-income families have access to one another in case of an emergency. It also keeps one from missing important calls such as job offers or employer inquiries.	4/14/13 22:29
Audrey	Perrott	94105	CA	Consumer Action	Wireless helps low-income families to find employment, stay in contact with schools, contact healthcare providers and seek help in an emergency. Low-incomes families should have the same opportunities as everyone else.	4/15/13 1:25
Grace	Chan McKibben	60615				4/15/13 7:15
Thea	Crouch-Santos	11216	NY		I think it is a valuable program for all in emergency situations	4/15/13 8:07
Harold	Feld	20036	DC			4/15/13 8:43
Nicole	Thornton	23063			not everyone can afford to pay outrageous phone bills whether it's cell or house phone low income people need options.	4/15/13 8:48
Eric	Geist	20901	MD		Phone service is critical for families.	4/15/13 9:05
Debbie	Goldman	20016				4/15/13 9:19
Nikki	Roberts	75904	TX	Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas		4/15/13 9:24
Linda	Stallworth	43203	OH		Because I am aware of many people -whose only connection to business, schools, medical, etc. affairs is through the use of these phones.	4/15/13 9:50
Curtis	Mack	70805	LA		I see the benefit directly that low income disabled and/or homeless individuals receive by having a phone for contact purposes. Financially, they can't afford a phone and are forced to rely on others.	4/15/13 9:51
William	Prettyman	72774	AR		Provides emergency contact for the poor. Cut off may very well cost lives.	4/15/13 9:57
Lihong	Mei	60616	IL		My grandfather is currently using the low-income wireless for daily communication with his family. He is living by himself with little of money; it is so important that he has a cell phone that we can keep in touch in case of emergency. Please do not cut the low-income wireless lifeline program when people need it. Thanks!	4/15/13 10:11

Andrea	Quijada	87108	NM		People in my family and in my community use the Wireless Lifeline program. Without it, they would be unable to schedule doctor appointments, take work calls, or stay connected to their loved ones.	4/15/13 10:18
TiAnna	Walker	49505			It's hard to stay connected and look for work if a person doesn't having a working phone. A lot of people depend on these phones.	4/15/13 10:33
Luz	Santiago	08344	NJ		This program is so important to many different populations. For seniors, this may be the only way they could contact local authorities and ambulance in case of emergencies. For low-income unemployed individuals this is a vital tool in securing employment by not only contacting them but by being accessible to employers when they are needed.	4/15/13 10:48
Pingjing	Zou	60616	IL			4/15/13 11:01
Lorena	Martin	90045	CA			4/15/13 11:44
Masiki	Akwei	20910	MD	MUUST		4/15/13 11:45
Blythe	Raphael	94618	CA		Alameda County has a high number of impoverished people who are marginally housed or homeless. Lifeline keeps families connected to employment offers (without a reliable phone the employer simply will not hire you). Lifeline enables poor families to communicate with employers, their children's schools, and vital services such as health care or 911 and to cut it would be disastrous for individuals and families already on the margin.	4/15/13 12:06
Amy	Holloway	94618	CA		Because it provides access to phone service for people who cannot afford it.	4/15/13 12:16

Claribel	Baca	90061	CA	Haven Neighborhood Services	Being a housing counselor in Los Angeles and assessing many client's household budgets I found majority have low income. It is necessary to have affordable programs that can help assist these individuals/families. Taking away necessary programs will create financial hardship due to high costs in phone services which is a necessity.	4/15/13 12:31
Charles	Jackson	94110			The wireless lifeline program is a life savior without which low income earners will not be able to communicate even in time of emergencies. Low income earners cannot afford the mounting phone bills. The program should be sustained.	4/15/13 12:44
Rose	Hilliard	16335	PA		It helps my DV Clients.	4/15/13 12:52
Meemee	Khine	94601	CA	Oakland Lao Family Community	This program will help me with unlimited call and text to my client with the job lead.	4/15/13 12:54
Melissa	Belfay	94611	CA		Everyone should have access to 911 and other resources that low-income people will need. Many do not have access to computers let alone wireless connections. No one should be left out of the most basic of communication tools.	4/15/13 13:27
Patricia	Goodin	73402	OK		This is exactly what it's named - a lifeline for people on fixed incomes with limited means of communicating with essential people in their lives like doctors, emergency medical personnel, pharmacies and public transportation. No matter where you are you can reach out to someone in an emergency. Of all the programs up for a cut, this is one that is truly a lifeline.	4/15/13 13:37
elizabeth	tanner	94610	CA		Eliminating this service would be a very short-sighted decision, harming the U.S. as a whole in the long run.	4/15/13 13:44
Beatriz	Velazquez	90404	CA		This is the only way low income families can keep contact with agencies such as schools, doctor, employer,etc.	4/15/13 13:51

Katherine	Meyer	94501	CA		I work with recently-arrived refugees from Burma who can't afford a cell phone. This prevents them from getting important communications in a timely way from their children, their children's school, their case worker and healthcare providers, and from possible employers. These people are an asset to California and to the US: they are courageous, hard-working, and determined to contribute to their new country. I strongly oppose any cuts to the Lifeline program..	4/15/13 14:23
nicholas	nelson	94609	CA		The Lifeline Program is a vital support for vulnerable people in our community. As a physician at the county hospital, I treat many patients whose access to communication services is vital for their health and need services like this.	4/15/13 14:59
Bridget	Glidden	94805				4/15/13 15:07
olga	saucedo	90405	CA		People are overwhelmed with the increase of food and gas .They need the lifeline program .	4/15/13 16:14
isabel	kang	94606	CA		Without you, too many people would become even more vulnerable. It has been vital for my clients to keep up appointments, follow up with their case managers, find and keep jobs, check on their children etc. There is no other alternatives, such as pay phones anymore. Do not cut this important and life saving device!	4/15/13 16:15
Betsy	Hicks	80303	CO		This is the only communication method that works for my 19 year old daughter on the autism spectrum.	4/15/13 17:16
Joan	Jeung	94502	CA		i'm a physician with many refugee patients. They need their phones to maintain contact with our clinic for important medical information, as well as with their employers, children's schools, and for emergencies. this is a necessity, not a luxury.	4/16/13 0:26

Joan	Jeung	94502	CA		i'm a physician with many refugee patients. They need their phones to maintain contact with our clinic for important medical information, as well as with their employers, children's schools, and for emergencies. this is a necessity, not a luxury.	4/16/13 0:26
Alegra	Howard	95125	CA			4/16/13 7:58
Donnarae	Morrison	16335	PA		I see everyday the need for the service	4/16/13 8:06
Maria	Lacey	83501	ID		I support the low-income "Lifeline" program because I used it for several years. People who characterize the Lifeline program as another "Obama" give-away are showing their ignorance...about the Lifeline program and what it's really like to live in poverty in America. Following my divorce, the Lifeline program helped me continue phone service for my family. Without Lifeline, I wouldn't have been able to call my sons' school (or vice-a-verse-a). I wouldn't have been able to schedule doctor's appointments. Their father, who was active duty military, wouldn't have been able to call them. Their grandparents wouldn't have been able to call them. Two years after my divorce was granted, I returned to college full time. Without Lifeline, I wouldn't have been able to call my professors, or pick up extra hours at my part-time, on-campus jobs. We wouldn't have been able to call 911 if we'd needed to. The Lifeline program has been around for more than 20 years. It doesn't cover "frills" like 3 way calling; it keeps the land-line connected and covers provides local calling capabilities only. Wireless carriers who participate in the Lifeline program provide 500 minutes per month--no texting, no data, just 2 hours and 5 minutes a week of "talk time"...which is crucial to keeping jobs, scheduling medical and other appointments, and communicating with schools.	4/16/13 11:03

KIM	LANG	83815	ID		This is a vital service for people who are low income! They must make every dollar count. Many times cell phones are much less expensive than land lines. Please don't take this service away!	4/16/13 11:07
Richard	Kremer	83501	ID		This is a low cost way to provide a means for the very poor and elderly to make emergency calls, without dipping into taxpayer funding to do it.	4/16/13 11:08
Ruth	McQuinn	83501	ID		*safety for seniors *community connection for low-income; necessary to finding a job *emergency contact for vulnerable	4/16/13 11:21
Shelly	Wiemer	83501	ID		Because many low-income individuals are elderly or families with young children that need phones for emergency situations. In the past I had to utilize this service and was extremely grateful. Now my husband and myself are self-sufficient, however I know there are many others out there struggling to make ends meet. I would not want them to have to chooses a phone or food!	4/16/13 11:35
Robin	McKinney	21202	MD	Maryland Cash Campaign	It provides allows individuals to stay in touch about potential jobs, receive assistance during emergencies, and gives connects with other critical need services.	4/16/13 11:48
James	McNeal	95841				4/16/13 12:03
Lisa	Cox	83501	ID		They are truly a life line to those who may struggle with covering the cost of a phone and an ability to call out for help if needed.	4/16/13 12:10
Lynette	Schlader	83543	ID		Low-income individuals need phone service to assist in employment searches and also for emergencies for elderly and disabled.	4/16/13 12:10
Mollynnae	Sherpa	83501	ID		I work with people with disabilities and this is their only chance for a phone.	4/16/13 12:12
Maria	Ward	83544			Low income individuals in rural America require access through telecommunications largely because that is often the only means of connectivity. They cannot access public transportatin for face-to-face connectivity because it does not exist.	4/16/13 12:15

Liz	Chavez	83501	ID		This truly is a lifeline for so many people who may live in rural areas, like Idaho, where there are long distances to medical facilities. NOT paid for with tax payer money, it is one of the real benefits of technology for those in need.	4/16/13 12:17
Charles	Benton	60201	IL			4/16/13 12:24
Kipton	Roderick	60626	IL			4/16/13 12:25
Judith	Rooney	99403	WA		People with low incomes need this service to stay connected - especially in rural areas where the options for assistance and support are limited. They do not have money for technology!	4/16/13 13:04
Darlene	Larson	00403	WA		My 94 year old mother relies on this emergency phone connection	4/16/13 14:53
Mary	Amidei	83501	ID		It's a tool to use for elders and disabled to be able to stay in there own home and be safe.	4/16/13 15:11
Carolyn	frei	83501	ID		We are supposed to be a Christian nation. Those of us who have enough can spare something for those who are not so fortunate.	4/16/13 15:49
Rebecca	Lupinacci	83501	ID		Being a nurse and a service coordinator I have seen many times that a lifeline saved someone from laying on the floor for hours waiting for help to show up when no one knows they are hurt	4/16/13 15:56
cleo	stamatos	21212	MD	Consultant	The program helps millions of Americans - veterans, military families, seniors - find and keep work, get information and keep in touch. It makes a difference and is a real "lifeline" for many!	4/16/13 16:19
Maria	Timoney	24382	VA		My clients who are victims of domestic violence depend on the Lifeline as an important resource.	4/16/13 17:22
Marsha	Wilson	83501	ID		Without it low-income people are isolated.	4/16/13 20:20
Don	Rounds	20816	MD		Wireless is an actual lifeline for many low-income people. We owe it to our society to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be affordably connected.	4/16/13 20:48
Janeth and Gary	Mallory	83501	ID			4/16/13 22:52
Lovetta	Tugbeh	94565			I too have benefited immensely from the service.	4/16/13 22:59

Dede	Carney	27834	NC		Much needed communications program for low income families - helps bridge the gap & connects them to community.	4/16/13 23:08
Jamie	Shropshire	83501	ID		This is an essential service for seniors and doesn't cost any taxpayer dollars.	4/17/13 0:09
Ann	Mattoon	83501	ID			4/17/13 1:55
bradley	burdette	33901	FL		People with low income or without a job need a way to communicate	4/17/13 9:16
Daniel	VanderMolen	49503			Because I have seen first hand the positive impact this program has for low-income job seekers.	4/17/13 11:53
Sandra	McNamara	22443	VA		It provides a literal lifeline to those who otherwise would not be able to afford a phone.	4/17/13 13:44
Hanna	Mark	94612	CA		As a social worker, I have referred many clients to this program and seen the infinite benefit it can bring to the most marginalized members of our society. Without these phones accessing social support, medical care, emergency help, or securing employment can be significantly more difficult. It is important to consider the range of costs to society that are alleviated by this free cell phone service.	4/17/13 15:07
Kerri	Lowe	91326	CA			4/17/13 15:11
Loistine	Outreach	92411	CA	Temple Community Outreach Church	So many families are without phone service and move around a lot some live with other people and are not allowed to use the phones	4/17/13 16:29
Katherine	Damato	22182	VA		I've seen how important it is for low-income seniors and other people who are struggling financially.	4/17/13 16:33
Mary	Schmidt	99403	WA		I work with low income families. They need a phone in order to find work and for medical emergencies.	4/17/13 16:44
Ruth	McFarlane	94116	CA		It's essential.	4/17/13 20:44
Wallace	Cheryl	22204	VA	Arlington Employment Center (Arlington)	Low-income individuals need the phones. Many of them cannot afford the cost of phone services.	4/17/13 21:15
Radomir	Avila	94703	CA			4/17/13 22:12
Susan	Hunsicker	94705				4/17/13 23:12

Kathleen	Gaines	83501	ID		People who are elderly, ill, poor deserve help. Why are Republicans so uncaring about those in need? Taking this away is just petty and mean.	4/17/13 23:40
Bridget	Colpits	83705	ID		The lifeline program is extremely important to many, especially the elderly. This is in some situations the only way that people have to communicate with others, as well as call someone in case of emergency. Without lifeline some elderly would not be able to have access to life alert since a phone line is required to have this service.	4/18/13 10:14
Monica	Steinisch	94131	CA		It makes sense to ensure that everyone has access to basic telephone service. The repercussions of being "cut off" would be significant (not being able to call 911, not being able to be contacted for work opportunities, and having an isolated elderly population). The consequences of discontinuing Lifeline are not worth it.	4/18/13 18:25
Heather	Hersh	72762	AR		to help victims of domestic violence	4/19/13 14:19
Lindsey	Rinehart	99163	WA		I have worked as a case manager with low income and homeless people and this is critical for helping people to stay connected to medical care, apply for jobs and housing.	4/22/13 12:20
Laurie	Neighbors	94117	CA			4/22/13 14:36
Peter	Weiss	94612	CA			4/22/13 14:39
Lori	Hendrickson	55744	MN	Univ. of MN Ext. Svcs. (Grand Rapids Reg. Ctr.)	I work with low-income families and very often a cell phone is the only phone they have.	4/22/13 16:14
Jennifer	Nadler	94601	CA			4/22/13 16:14
HEather	Hadry	19047	PA			4/22/13 16:15
Dan	Thompson	50322	IA		Too much Greed by Wireless companies now, as Usual too!!!	4/22/13 16:15
Cynthia	Braus	60008	IL		My lifeline phone gives me the security of being able to get help in an emergency. It also keeps me connected. Please keep this valuable program.	4/22/13 16:15

Susan	Taylor	52003	IA		This subsidy will help low-income, seniors, veterans and minorities Americans to be in touch with work, schools and emergency needs.	4/22/13 16:16
Bridgett	Brown	94105	CA	Independent Living Resource Center/ S.F.	Wireless is needed by all sometimes it is used as Home phone & is all a person on limited income has....	4/22/13 16:16
Kathi	Anderson	92193	CA			4/22/13 16:16
Anne	Sparks	45766			As a professor of social work and a volunteer in my rural community, I am very aware of many people who are elderly or disabled who live in isolated areas without nearby neighbors and cannot afford the full cost of telephone service. This program is a necessity, not a luxury, which Republican presidents who began and expanded it understood.	4/22/13 16:17
Ronald	Krinock	19350	PA			4/22/13 16:17
Paul	Blanke	93420	CA		Because I am a low income senior	4/22/13 16:18
John	Murray	34275	FL		Insures we will have some means of communicating even in severe cases like superstorm Sandy. DON'T LET THE LIFELINE GO, PLEASE!	4/22/13 16:19
Lisa	McFarren	16335	PA			4/22/13 16:19
Charlotte	Scalise	16501	PA	Erie County Human Relations Commission		4/22/13 16:19
Anita	Wills	94577	CA		My family and I have utilized this program. This is the only way we can afford cell phones.	4/22/13 16:19
MONTE	ROY	70503	LA			4/22/13 16:20

					Hola: I support the low-income Wireless Lifeline program due to my family's experience with it. There were some months that my elderly parents, living in separate homes, wouldn't have been able to pay any kind of phone bill, w/out the low-income Wireless Lifeline program. One lived in a senior community and other residents also had income limits that forced them to apply for the Lifeline program. I know of many seniors who wear their cell phones around dtheir neck in case they need 911 help (some have physically abusive relatives, others are in fragile health and fall or are afraid of falling). I know that my personal landline includes a Lifeline surcharge and I don't mind paying the fee in support of those who would have NO phone w/out the Lifeline program. When you're a shut-in, a telephone call a day from someone calling in to check on you is the difference between a life of no interaction and one that shows someone cares for you, which helps with mental health and physical well being. Gracias for listening...keep Lifeline in place, por favors.	
C.L.	Page	94610	CA			4/22/13 16:20
James	Wolcott	47715	IN			4/22/13 16:21
Laura	Arellano	91784	CA		Some seniors cannot afford a basic \$50 cell package and need a phone for emergencies.	4/22/13 16:21
John	Tam	94014	CA		For some of the low-income elderly, it's the only way they can afford to have a telephone for emergencies & keep in touch with their loved ones.	4/22/13 16:21
janet	lucero	81101	CO		Because it is needed buy many people	4/22/13 16:22
Judith	Clark	33426			This program is a tremendous help to low income families and particularly the elderly. Beside, if Ronald Regan though of it, it must be a good idea!	4/22/13 16:22
Graciela	Barajas	92102	CA			4/22/13 16:23

Mai	Yang	93611	CA		I support the low-income Wireless Lifeline program because it keeps my home-bound grandmother who is a primary caregiver to 4 children ages 0-5, connected to their working parents and support networks she needs throughout the day. She cannot drive due to her age and speaks limited English. Having a Lifeline telephone in her home gives her a sense of security and support to provide a positive and healthy home environment for her grandchildren.	4/22/13 16:24
Jean	Harris	92108	CA		When we care for each other we lift all of us up!	4/22/13 16:24
Laura	Sutherland	78504	TX	South Texas Civil Right Project	It's import for families to have access to 911 in case of an emergency. If they are low income families it's important for them to have a phone in case they are applying for a job. A child might get sick or hurt at school, the parent should find out as soon as possible not until they go to school to pick up the child. It could be something very serious where the doctors might need their permission to do a procedure.	4/22/13 16:24
Marion	Battles	77025	TX	Sheltering Arms Senior Services	Because i work with seniors 60 yrs and older and some of them depend on this service.	4/22/13 16:26
Courtney	Clerico	93301	CA	CCCS (Kern & Tulare Counties)		4/22/13 16:27
Kathleen	Shada	92672	CA	Triangle Terrace / Wycliffe Casa	It enables the people who are disabled and who are older to have affordable telephone access to emergency services wherever they may be.	4/22/13 16:27

					This program is vital to those in the lower income bracket. Cell phone and even home phone service in many instances is so expensive that they are unable to pay for it. This leaves them without a line of communication for parents with school-aged children, for individuals seeking employment, for emergency calls to doctors and/or hospitals as well as just a line of communication to the world itself. To take away this program is to once again tell those who don't have the means that they simply do not matter.	
Claudette	Almaraz	67401	KS			4/22/13 16:29
Amanda	Gormley	94122	CA			4/22/13 16:29
Jerry	Gahan	92277	CA			4/22/13 16:29
Bronwyn	Howlett	94102	CA		I'm a service coordinator for a low income subsidized senior community in San Francisco. Many of my residents are formerly homeless, and many of them are living only on meager SSA/SSI benefits. They simply cannot afford phone service without LifeLine, because it comes down to "do i eat this month, or do I pay a phone bill?" LifeLine helps my residents stay connected to their doctors, case managers, and their support network of family and friends, who all contribute to their wellbeing. To lose LifeLine would be a devastating blow to my seniors.	4/22/13 16:31
Arnaud	Delorme	94954	CA		Phone service for poor old people is important in case of emergency.	4/22/13 16:31
Greta	Hansen	53704	WI	CAC for S. Central WI (Dane Co.)	Because low-income people need access to services.	4/22/13 16:32
Mercedes	Munoz	11375	NY		I support it because even though I don't need it there are a lot of people that do need it.	4/22/13 16:33
Eva	Mihalyo	97504	OR		I work with low income persons, and having this available can be a lifesaver for them in an emergency.	4/22/13 16:34

Jan	Edwards	77498			Only the poorest of these elders even qualify to the Lifeline service. This resource critical to low-income elderly, who are have a number of critical and chronic medical conditions and need to communicate with their health care team, with vital resource agencies such as home-delivered meals and food stamps, they are also dependent on this phone service to maintain their emergency response systems! They are at high risk for falls and other life-threatening emergencies. And, the social isolation they would experience at the loss of phone service would increase their risk for memory impairment, depression and other poor physical and mental health outcomes. Preserving their well-being and independence is cost-effective for the tax payor, when these frail elders can remain in their own homes for as long as possible compared to the cost of premature and/or otherwise unnecessary institutionlization!	4/22/13 16:35
Hector	Guzman Lopez	78541	TX		access to communication is a right we all deserve and should not be deprived of this due to poverty.	4/22/13 16:35
Christopher	Lewis	22304	VA			4/22/13 16:36
KATHLEEN	CANFIELD	06708	CT			4/22/13 16:38
a	d	33483	FL			4/22/13 16:39
Steve	Solomon	95172	CA	Solomon and Brenner, LLP	Life is tough enough for those scraping by to make ends meet. A lifeline cell phone helps struggling people stay in touch, provides emergency access-- a bare minimum of a virtual safety net.	4/22/13 16:39
mark	ohashi	43606	OH		Every individual has a need to be connected to family, friends and to other resources, all of which require phone communication. These phones provide a means to allow low income families to seek necessary assistance and ultimately, to help themselves either survive or move up in their situations.	4/22/13 16:40

Pamala	Cain	35772	AL		I live alone and I am physically disabled resulting from a stroke 26 years ago.I depend on the low income Wireless Lifeline program because I cannot afford a cell phone and the service.This low income Wireless Lifeline program is vital.It does not need to be taken away like the many other needs many of us have.Granted,there are some who receive this service who do not deserve it.Why not weed these people out and leave the legitimate alone?	4/22/13 16:50
m	stonr	59807	MT			4/22/13 16:53
Carolina	Shaper	94115	CA		Because it is a huge help to people most in need!	4/22/13 16:54
NORMA	PERALES	78626	TX	Georgetown Housing Authority	SENIORS AND DISABLED ADULTS AS WELL AS LOW INCOME FAMILIES NEED A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION FOR DOCTORS; EMERGENCIES; ETC.	4/22/13 16:54
Ines	Galarza	85378	AZ		I work as a housing counselor for a HUD approved non-profit agency. These phones are sometimes the only way I have to communicate with the homeowners we help. The families I see with this phones cannot afford a land line nor to pay for cell phones on their own.	4/22/13 16:55
Bryan	Addams	90403			Eliminating LIFELINE would, in essence, close a window to the world for those that need it most. Please don't eliminate this essential and valuable means of communication and connection.	4/22/13 16:58
Steven	Hammond	77530	TX	Path Mark Ministries Inc.	It is expedient for the low-income, welfare-to-work, and ex-offenders attempting to reconnect with the workforce.	4/22/13 16:59
Hillary	Yosowitz	44122	OH			4/22/13 16:59
Nicholas	stamatos	21212				4/22/13 17:00
Richard	Bridgman	66204				4/22/13 17:01
Vickie	Allen	74878	OK		This program helps so many disadvantaged people - the disabled, seniors, single mothers with children at home. Please don't allow this program to be taken from them.	4/22/13 17:03

Saveria and Bernard	Garcia	11003	NY		We are seniors with low-income, and having a cell phone wireless lifeline program is necessary for life and death, especially that the universal fee charged to all, and all persons are supporting this program for those in need!	4/22/13 17:03
Harold	Rice	28202	NC	Community Link (Charlotte, NC)		4/22/13 17:03
saddie	elliott	77033	TX		this life line help so many people who can not get help . for school and jobs this help low income people.	4/22/13 17:12
michelle	puckett	94611				4/22/13 17:15
Stewart	Sheehy	85705	AZ		Please don't take from the poor. Tax the rich.	4/22/13 17:16
john	Martin	84098	UT		Do not support...unless the massive waste that has occurred in this program can be significantly reduced, I believe it should be ended. I do not support this program as currently conceived.	4/22/13 17:17
Josefina	Enriquez	95776	CA		it's a life saver for the homeless population and all the low income individuals.	4/22/13 17:17
Ethel	Tilley	87185	NM	Airman & Family Readiness Ctr	becasue there are many seniors that can not afford emerency eqirpmnts and this is away to support helping them to stay in touch.	4/22/13 17:18
James	Suthers	91505	CA		Though I know there are members of Congress that would like to see certain classes of people as "disposable," in truth, all human beings have value, even if not fully realized. Can we please stop this laser-like focus on policy that only benefits corporations, real people be damned? It's disgusting and immoral.	4/22/13 17:23
Walda	Yon	20009	DC	Latino Economic Development Corp.		4/22/13 17:28
DENNIS	ZATLOKOWICZ	92082	CA		we are on a fixed income	4/22/13 17:34
Donna	Hansel	91351	CA		Helps A LOT!	4/22/13 17:34
Michael	Hansel	91351	CA		Helps a lot	4/22/13 17:35
DENNIS	ZATLOKOWICZ	92082	CA		We are retired and on a fixed income.	4/22/13 17:35
Cindy	Zatlokowicz	92082	CA		fixed income	4/22/13 17:38
William	Richardson	03079	NH			4/22/13 17:40

Reggie	Bachus	60607	IL		This is a Republican sponsored initiative started under Reagan, expanded by Bush and simply because you have a group of Obama Haters who happen to be Republicans like Reagan and Bush who started the program and suddenly it should be eliminated? Partisan politics and racism!	4/22/13 17:41
n	w	33444	FL			4/22/13 17:44
Carol	Pierson	94702	CA			4/22/13 17:49
Dave	Church	28612	NC			4/22/13 17:50
dinda	evans	92117	CA		It saves lives..and misery. I had an aunt that didnt have it..It was over a week before they found her...she had a broke leg and after a week she was confused, dazed and suffering from dehydration, etc. If the legislators plan to kill off our elderly and disabled they should at least man up and do the johonstown kool aid thing..its quicker and more humane than all the cuts to medical, caregivers, lifelines, aid, etc., etc.	4/22/13 17:51
Cindy	Bubolz	54220			Because it is exactly that LIFE!!!!	4/22/13 17:52
Veronica	Chavez	95695	CA		I support Lifeline because it provides access means of communication and upward mobility to those who are very low-income.	4/22/13 17:54
Kristin	Johnson	84403	UT	Cornerstone Financial Education	Needed for those that live in poverty!	4/22/13 17:56
Tammy	Ransdell	84101	UT		Without the program, low income individuals and families would not otherwise have access to their own personal phone. It would make it more difficult to call for help during an emergency.	4/22/13 18:04
Vernon	glenn	92392	CA	High Desert Multi-Cultural Coalition	I have used It and know it helps low income people	4/22/13 18:05
norma	hollis	90241	CA		Because it helps so many of who need the extra help	4/22/13 18:10
Rose	Rimler	97459				4/22/13 18:12

Larry	ortega	90063	CA	Community Union	Because it just makes good economic sense. The tragic things that could occur without it, are simply to high of a cost for our country to bare. Lifeline is just good economic sense.	4/22/13 18:15
Loren	England	92101	CA		I am employed with a non-profit that operates employment programs. Without cell phones our clients have no way of communicating with potential employers	4/22/13 18:22
Mary	Slater	65349	MO		Everyone should be able to get help in an emergency.	4/22/13 18:27
Ana	Lopez	96050	CA	Watts Century Latino Organization	I support the low-income wireless lifeline program because it offers Seniors the possibility to carry a wireless phone at a low and affordable cost. In somecases the devise is a life savings tool!	4/22/13 18:28
Gloria	Musyoki	79912	TX		It is a needed service	4/22/13 18:28
Amy	Szmania	43230	OH			4/22/13 18:32
Malini	Sodha	91791				4/22/13 18:38
Geraldine	Sturgis	30824 4124	GA		It assist the economical disadvantage citizens whom can not afford modern technology and have access to 911 in case they encounter an emergency!!!	4/22/13 18:40
Karen	Nevis	95010			I am using this program and it helps my household budget as I do not use, nor do I want a cell phone due to the exposure to microwave radiation.	4/22/13 18:43
Diane	Whitmire	95404	CA		I support wireless AND LANDLINE Lifelines. No one should have to choose, or go out to buy another phone they can't afford in order to call an Emergency number. More stupidity & greed from corporations!	4/22/13 18:43
Malinda	Funk	48910	MI			4/22/13 18:46
Nancy	Lim-Yee	94108	CA	Chinatown Child Development Center	It makes wireless access available to low-income individuals and is handy, especially in event of emergencies.	4/22/13 18:49

rebecca	cohen	54302			many low income people have no other access to a phone, which is often the only means of communication for them. This program is needed for our low income citizens who cannot otherwise afford to have a telephone.	4/22/13 18:49
Adrienne	Owens	43230	OH		For people who are struggling to pay rent and put food on the table, a phone is often not a number one priority. But in these times, nobody should be without access to a phone for medical and safety emergencies, and for keeping in contact with family/support network, at least on a limited basis.	4/22/13 18:51
terry	vanderbush	55420	MN			4/22/13 18:58
Tammie	Johnson-Lozolla	92376	CA	Enhancing Forward Action, Inc.	Low income need access. They are already separated from knowing and involvement in the community for their needs. The most vulnerable should be protected.	4/22/13 19:07
Scott	Weikart	94301	CA		It's very difficult to get then keep a job if you don't have a phone.	4/22/13 19:13
Garril	Page	94960			I support LANDLINE, wired programs. Telecoms are trying to take out landlines which leave those of us dependent on wired connections with no service alternative. This is 100% wrong!!! I favor service for people: live, human customers instead profits to greedy corporations.	4/22/13 19:13
christine	treadwell	94553	CA		it is very much necessary	4/22/13 19:20
william	treadwell	94553	CA		because I qualify	4/22/13 19:22
Maxine	Henry	87121	NM			4/22/13 19:27
Lourdes	Herrera	93638	CA		Because we promote the Lifeline and the most people has this service are senior they can paid for the regular cell phone.	4/22/13 19:34
gabriel	griego	94112			Because I qualify for it.	4/22/13 19:36
donna	hoopes	83544	ID		This Program allows the most vulnerable of our citizens to have access to EMS and other important services that they would otherwise not be able to do. As most of these can not afford a home phone.	4/22/13 19:37

mary	ellis	78701	TX		Low income seniors need this for medical emergencies	4/22/13 19:37
Tania	Perez	92405	CA		They assist the low-income population and is a service that benefits people!	4/22/13 19:45
Susan	Galante	27526	NC			4/22/13 19:49
Moe	Dein	92806	CA		The poor and especially the elderly needs to have this service; with these people it is a question of life or death.	4/22/13 19:56
Richard	Sanabia	37385	TN		Easily lives could be saved here.	4/22/13 20:03
Marie	Conroy-Salbi	94121			Important. Thanks.	4/22/13 20:10
Shari	Waldron	54914	WI		Everyone needs a phone if only to call for help. In the high tech world a phone is a necessity.	4/22/13 20:17
Greg	Hill	02143	MA			4/22/13 20:22
Annette	DePauli	95201	CA	San Joaquin Co. - Aging & Community Services	This programs helps many low and medium income seniors who have had their incomes cut by up to \$60.00 a month afford a phone which is critical for their safety.	4/22/13 20:23
Shawn	Delmar	19037	PA		For protection all US Citizens (but that's it)!!!!	4/22/13 20:24
Bill	Kleiber	77340	TX		Lifeline program is important for helping individuals get jobs, receive emergency medical care and stay in touch with their support groups. There are not pay phones on every block anymore and we know from running a toll free crisis hotline that impoverished individuals cannot even afford 50 cents for a phone call.	4/22/13 20:27
lyndale	linkous	76707	TX		Not everyone has wealthy grandparents. Most of the elderly are on a set budget. They deserve a cell phone to carry with them in case of illness or danger.	4/22/13 20:31
Leo	Martinez	92692	CA		Many senior citizens are on tight budgets and they need the support.	4/22/13 20:32
Roger	Levin	94118	CA		Communication for the low-income is CRITICAL to their well-being!	4/22/13 20:33
Jean	Rishel	48176	MI			4/22/13 20:40
Frank	Pitz	19006	PA		It is my only phone service. As a 75 year old on social security I need - and rely - on this service.	4/22/13 20:41

John	Paul	32086	FL			4/22/13 20:42
Judy	Passon	49629				4/22/13 20:44
Corry	Dastur	94954	CA			4/22/13 20:45
Lynda	Galligan	20122	VA		It is a life line for the low income for employment, medical, etc., who would not otherwise be able to afford this service.	4/22/13 20:48
David	Karchem	91311	CA			4/22/13 20:50
Kathleen	Shea-Barber	48178	MI		When Presidents Reagan & Bush recognized the value of non-tax supported life line, why would anyone not? Please preserve this necessary program.	4/22/13 20:54
Mary	Detrick	33755	FL			4/22/13 21:11
LuRetta	Fairman	95819	CA		Very low income persons also have very limited options and resources to meet basic human needs. Simple communication is vital to maintenance of self-sufficiency, family and community relationships, access to education and employment, and the ability to seek emergency help. LifeLine phone service enables those with very limited resources to sustain themselves, their loved ones, and their community responsibilities.	4/22/13 21:13
VALERIE	WOODS-COLLINS	92551	CA		EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO PHONE SERVICE	4/22/13 21:39
Robin	McMillon	30126	GA		Because there are many Senior citizens who depend on this program to have a phone.	4/22/13 21:43
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Joe	LaRocco	07036	NJ			4/22/13 21:45
Judy	Shutes	95461	CA		I want the LANDLINE Lifeline saved	4/22/13 21:47
vinu	arumugham	95111	CA			4/22/13 21:48
David	Sullivan	95765	CA		I am in a position to where I may be needing thjis soon...	4/22/13 21:51

Wilburn	Runnels	77320	TX		Because I am leagally blind and would not be able to have a phone to contact anyone for help when needed. I, along with MANY other persons who do not have funds, due to unfortunat circumstances, to own a phone. Please support continuing the lifeline program.	4/22/13 21:54
hal	evans	90038	CA			4/22/13 21:56
Fred	Schwacke	05340	VT			4/22/13 22:15
hal	evans	90038	CA		Every dollar helps when you're poor.	4/22/13 22:18
Teresa	Sweet	92504	CA		I have it,need it, and use it. I'm very thankful for the assistance! Thank you for your help in keeping programs afloat for those who struggle to nake ends meet!	4/22/13 22:19
Deborah	Fexis	03062	NH			4/22/13 22:27
Gladys	Nockin	85139	AZ		That program saves lives in poor communities.	4/22/13 22:28
TtOM	HAMPTON	10023	NY			4/22/13 22:29
Don	Purcell	77346	TX		Best oppportunity for low income to find work-communication.	4/22/13 22:38
Cathy	Banks	60409	IL		for unemployed job seekers and low income seniors	4/22/13 22:39
Edward	January	71203	LA	Pilgrim Missionary CDO		4/22/13 22:56
Richard	Ferraro	02481	MA		safety,communication with friends, loved ones,support groups/agencies/medical care-givers,dignity	4/22/13 22:58
linda	chance	84102	UT			4/22/13 23:07
Jolene	Davidson	46322	IN			4/22/13 23:14
Pamela	Taylor	90043	CA		Because it saves low-income families money.	4/22/13 23:14
S	Smith	11789	NY		Everyone should have access to the Internet!	4/22/13 23:30
Cynthia	Hall	65803	MO		Wireless lifeline benefit particularly senior citizens who have no family and very few friends to check on their well being. This provides a means for a senior individual to call for help should they need it in the event of an emergency.	4/22/13 23:31

Mary Ann	Dangman	83541	ID		If you are applying for jobs, I think it would be essential for potential employers to be able to contact applicants. Also may need a phone for emergency contacts.	4/22/13 23:51
charlene	campbell	33991	FL		Young families are usually taking classes to better themselves and working full time, they need this to better themselves and add to our economy.	4/23/13 0:02
ROBERT L	HOOKS Sr	27405	NC		A HOUSE PHONE IS OVER \$60.00 FOR LOCAL CALLS PER MONTH, THE CELL IS A BIG HELP WITH NONE LOCAL CALLS	4/23/13 0:07
Martha	Mattes	74114	OK			4/23/13 0:15
Charles L.	Krugman	93721	CA		As a person who has been low income at times and as a socialworker I am aware of many people who benefit from this service.	4/23/13 0:21
Celina	Castillo Velázquez	92702	CO		Yes, I support low income wireless lifeline program	4/23/13 0:33
Steve	Landrum	94043	CA			4/23/13 1:02
Mary	Lyda	97523	OR			4/23/13 1:09
Cheryl	Clayton	95502	CA		40 years ago, as a young single parent, lifeline service was all I could afford in order to have access to telephone service. I am now a senior, soon to be on a fixed income, and will most likely once again need this program in order to access emergency services. I do not own a cell phone, and cannot afford this costly service. Discontinuing this valuable program will cause immeasurable harm to seniors and other people living on a limited income. Please continue lifeline service for LAND LINES as well as cell phones.	4/23/13 1:11
Claude	Everett	94611	CA		without the lifeline program I could not afford to have a land line and they are necessary in any natural emergency.	4/23/13 1:16
Alexander	Binik	94930	CA		We particularly want to ensure that the Lifeline program subsidies continue for LANDLINE phones, which many lower-income families continue to depend on for essential communications.	4/23/13 1:37
Teigh	Hashmi	31750	GA			4/23/13 1:40

panda	behr	94116	CA		This is a crucial subsidy that keeps low-income families connected. Otherwise they would not be able to afford this service. I strongly oppose any cuts to Lifeline.	4/23/13 2:02
Scott	Sanders	60645	IL		make it more efficient - don't drop it. there's a reason it's called lifeline.	4/23/13 2:03
sandrea	ealey	0700s	NJ		IT's a necessity for seniors!	4/23/13 2:07
Gary	Surgeon	28077	NC		I support low income wireless lifeline one reason is because Ronald Regan created and George Bush renewed. I think it's a good program for those in need.	4/23/13 2:35
Julie	Lovins	94039	CA		Having phone connectivity is absolutely necessary for any decent sort of survival in our society. I think that people suggesting otherwise should have their phones taken away from them, so they can see what it's like not to have them.	4/23/13 3:01
Joseph	Ricci	80904	CO			4/23/13 3:19
Walt	Esch	30529	GA		It's the only way prospective employers have to contact me!	4/23/13 3:56
William	Gruhlke	95060	CA		I know people it helps	4/23/13 5:56
Melissa	Hungerbuhler	95060			I need it!	4/23/13 5:57
pat	tomasula	27127	NC			4/23/13 7:11
Amelia	Pickering	41858	KY		This is an essential program that lets low income people in our eastern Kentucky region afford access to basic phone service. Without phone service their opportunities for improving their economic situation will be severely limited. This program also does not use taxpayer funds. There is no good reason to oppose it.	4/23/13 7:57
Marsha	Anderson	64131	MO		This program is a gigantic help to low income persons. It enables them to look for employment, keep in contact with the schools where their children attend and obtain emergency services. Since it is not tax payer funded, there is no reason to cut it. If President Reagan approved it, his adorers should continue to support it.	4/23/13 8:01

Tony	Thomas	46805	IN		I am an attorney working primarily with lower income persons. Many of my clients, especially low income, disabled clients, would not have phone service but for the "Obama phone" program. The phone is an important link to family & friends, police and government, and business services. It makes my clients less isolated.	4/23/13 8:18
Alan	Gurvitz	08050	NJ			4/23/13 8:29
Shelita	Richmond	48234	MI	Family & Cmty. Dev. Ctr.	I work for a nonprofit and I assist low income individuals with finding resources and employment. Without the phone assistance some of them will have no way of staying in touch with perspective employers.	4/23/13 8:36
Theresa	Gordon	20724	MD		I support it for our seniors, prices for everything is high for them to hardly get by, what else will they take away? Our seniors deserve better care as do our veterans, everyone cant have an Iphone or whatever. This program has helped people I know with keeping in communciation with doctors for their kids, and school emergencies. Come on people, what next have us pay for the air we breathe. Keep this program alive.	4/23/13 8:37
Brenda	Konkel	53703	WI		I have many homeless friends who sleep all over the city in parks, on public lands, under bridges, at churches, in bushes, etc and this is often the only for them to reach out to others when in danger or sick. Also, they need these phones to stay in touch with doctors, potential employers, mental health providers and their support network. This would be a disaster if the program were to end.	4/23/13 8:55
Beth	Martinez	48076	MI	Jewish Vocational Services (Southfield Office)	I work with low income clients who depend on this phone to keep in contact with doctors and family. They are primarily on fixed incomes and couldn't afford a phone, especially the elderly clients.	4/23/13 8:56
Kami	Griffiths	94103	CA	Community Technology Network	People shouldn't be disconnected because they are low income.	4/23/13 8:59

Brenda	Konkel	53703	WI		I have many homeless friends who sleep all over the city in parks, on public lands, under bridges, at churches, in bushes, etc and this is often the only for them to reach out to others when in danger or sick. Also, they need these phones to stay in touch with doctors, potential employers, mental health providers and their support network. This would be a disaster if the program were to end.	4/23/13 9:02
Julie	Harris	53532	WI			4/23/13 9:05
Myrna	Ulrich	53590	WI		Because I am currently on it !	4/23/13 9:06
Duane	Dahl Jr.	53713	WI		I believe it's a good program for low income people or no income.	4/23/13 9:07
Satori	Bailey	02139	MA		Because it's crucial for low-income mothers to have a cell phone so that can be contacted in case of emergencies about their children.	4/23/13 9:08
Sasha	Kowalski	53719	WI		This is not a play games and google yourself phone, this is simply giving people a number. A way for schools, doctors, jobs, etc. to contact them.	4/23/13 9:10
Cody	Williamson	53703				4/23/13 9:14
Rex	Thomas	92555	CA		Please give the old and helpless a break!	4/23/13 9:17
Jess	Anderson	53705			Government exists to support citizens in need.	4/23/13 9:17
Elsy	Castillo	07060	NJ		Because I work for a non-profit and it allows many of the parents in the program to benefit from the program.	4/23/13 9:18
Renee	Nordeen	53963	WI			4/23/13 9:19
Pete	Frierson	38401	TN		It saves lives and there are folks that would be lost without lifeline. Please keep lifeline and continue to save lives.	4/23/13 9:24
Joe	Washington	23693				4/23/13 9:31
Jean	Shultz	24012	VA		I have seen first hand how these phones have helped low income families. They are especially helpful to low income elderly and disabled, who would have no way to contact doctors, family, emergency help without them. Please do not do away with this program.	4/23/13 9:36

Shannon	Frey	53703			Helps many individuals accomplish what they need to do.	4/23/13 9:37
Sharron	St.John	53715	WI		because EVERYONE needs some bit of security and connection in these hard hard times.	4/23/13 9:37
Tamora	Peters-Miller	53508	WI		It is SO necessary for people who are homeless or low income to get and maintain employment, contact medical personnel in emergencies and to maintain health and also for safety reason that many face as they live in dangerous circumstances in bad areas of the city. Please do not do budget balancing on the backs of the most poor among us! Basic human needs should be met first!	4/23/13 9:43
Gerald	Bertholl	71353	LA			4/23/13 9:44
Samuel	Phillips	53703			Some things shouldn't be a luxury.	4/23/13 9:54
Dolores	Negrete	90014	CA		We need all the fiscal breaks available; While these wealthy fat cat politicians are callously prolonging the trend to unilaterally slash at programs and fiscal assistance meant to help military vets, the elderly, poor, and disabled. That is, brutal disregard for the most vulnerable of society.	4/23/13 9:59
Marla	Boyd	77591	TX		Most of my clients with low or no income helps them keep in contact, especially for emergency	4/23/13 10:07
Erica	Kuffler	53701	WI		cause it is cheaper for people who have less and less fortune	4/23/13 10:07
Marla	Boyd	77015	TX		Low/no income people need it to stay connected	4/23/13 10:10
charity	hohlstein	53704				4/23/13 10:13
JORDAN	B	33334	FL		NEEDED TO HELP PEOPLE WHO NEED IT...	4/23/13 10:17
Emmett	Solomon	77340	TX		There very few public telephones any more. Without lifeline a significant number of citizens will be cut of from one of our primary forms of communication, which will further denigrate them and separate them from our society.	4/23/13 10:18
Charles	Dollins	78641	TX		I might need it myself someday.	4/23/13 10:21
Marcia	Hazen	53597				4/23/13 10:30
Norm	Littlejohn	53703				4/23/13 10:33

John	Petrack	15090	PA			4/23/13 10:39
Rita	Charles	15206	PA		This is not a taxpayer expense and has assisted in many emergencies. Government has really gotten out of hand. Do we need to become a third world country while the rich get richer? Save the PHONES! It's not easy being a senior in this country.	4/23/13 10:42
shirley	boyd	62002	IL		Older people need it	4/23/13 10:43
Claudia	Hawkins	50314	IA		Because of the customers we serve at ISED and the need for low income clients to have available to them low to no cost communication	4/23/13 10:47
Jenn	Cunningham	03103				4/23/13 10:54
Barbara	Quatrano	28607	NC			4/23/13 10:55
Betty	Walker	38562	TN		I have a sister that uses the low income program because she has a heart condition	4/23/13 10:57
BRUCE	BURGESSON	10552	NY		Will help low-income citizens.	4/23/13 10:57
Cindy	Lane	67401	KS		This is very important, living in a rural area!	4/23/13 10:57
Mary	Klein	44514	OH		Everyone should be able to call an ambulance in an emergency, get call backs from their Doctors about treatment etc.	4/23/13 10:58
Edith	wilsonHill	15201	PA			4/23/13 10:58
jan	sloan	30047	GA			4/23/13 10:58
Dinah	Miner	65439	MO		It is a big help to the sick, elderly and those with low-incomes.	4/23/13 10:58
kemesha	clarke	33161			because i am a part of that percentage of low income family and this phone helps me alot to communicate with my family because i cant afford a cell phone..so to take it away would be horrible to the family who is using this program.	4/23/13 10:58
Kurt	Neiswanger	55422	MN			4/23/13 10:58
Jane	Dzubak	10512	NY			4/23/13 10:58
George	Eget	20109	VA		With incomes decreasing and phone bills increasing, it is becoming very hard to have contact with the outside in case of emergency or looking for work.	4/23/13 10:59

Marie	Edwards	89012	NV		These people need to have a phone for emergency use -- be it to call for assistance or for a potential employer to call them.	4/23/13 11:00
Kevin	Reid	20005	DC		Phones are important for safety and for helping people stay connected who need a support structure.	4/23/13 11:00
Edward	Nushardt	37042	TN		Provides a needed service for low income people who need a dependable way to communicate in emergencies, or to contact family members.	4/23/13 11:00
carolann	tracy	14425	NY		i think everyone should have a phone in case of an emergency	4/23/13 11:01
Felicia	Allen	37091				4/23/13 11:01
Sharon	Mylott	03603	NH			4/23/13 11:01
Kathleen	Krawczyk	16511	PA		I may need it some day.	4/23/13 11:01
Tom	Burson	17055	PA		I support this program as long as it is not abused and the people receiving wireless service need it versus a land line.	4/23/13 11:01
Al	Krause	10025	NY			4/23/13 11:01
jim	gergat	19505	PA			4/23/13 11:02
Linda	Brackett	30572	GA		It is a great help to low incomebfamilies.	4/23/13 11:02
Michael	Norden	43512	OH			4/23/13 11:03
Michael	Subelka	89048	NV		No tax money is used, and helps poor people have a phone for calling fire, and police, as well other services.	4/23/13 11:03
Evelyn	FEGLER	69341	NE		The elderly and poor need this help. It is a low cost non -taxpayer way to help.	4/23/13 11:04
annastacia	belladonna	55117				4/23/13 11:04
Tanya	Ray	41011	KY		Because it can be a life and death issue if someone needs to call police or emergency response -for themselves or people near them. Also necessary for people looking for work who are working and need to call employer due to missing bus, or not able to come to work. Most employers require a working home for employment.	4/23/13 11:05

ANita	Katz	33434	FL		It is fair for those in need of the service and is a small charge on our phone bills, NOT a government expense or tax.	4/23/13 11:05
JamesM	Mangin	95129	CA		Especially needed for low income seniors and the homeless trying to find employment.	4/23/13 11:05
Roy	Major	30677	GA		Becauseit helps the poor without using tax fubds.	4/23/13 11:06
Lois	King	19977	DE		it helps seniors and low income families to stay connected with doctors and schools and for the job searches.	4/23/13 11:06
Barbara	Soule	96064			Phone communication is vital to all persons, and the elderly and low income especially need it to be cost-free.	4/23/13 11:07
FRANK	OROSZ	48146	MI		It is just the right thing to do. What has happened to the humanity of the people apposing this?	4/23/13 11:07
cesar	casillas	91744				4/23/13 11:07
Tina	Mikhael	01516	MA		When going outside my home, it helps to have a cell phone for safety and emergencies which I totally can not afford on limited income. Helps to keep a hard line in the home to, in case of emergencies, blizzards or power outages otherwise I would not have means of communication to others outside my home. BTW I live alone.	4/23/13 11:08
Adam	Solla	94518	CA		Low income is hard to live with, any help we can provide is something that we should give back.	4/23/13 11:09
Raymond	Kopaska	66061	KS		It was for a good purpose	4/23/13 11:09
Joseph	Olszewski	18447	PA			4/23/13 11:09
robert	chrysafis	80004	CO		i am low income and have made use of this program in the passed and could have a need again to do so in the future.	4/23/13 11:09
Ryland	Ross	19023	PA		I need it because I am retired and can not afford landline phone.	4/23/13 11:09
Todx	Bowerson	36322	AL		I used lifeline cell service now since unemployed	4/23/13 11:09
Phoenix	Vie	94706	CA			4/23/13 11:10
Deborah	Aylor-Polisoto	20855				4/23/13 11:10

Aracely	Solla	94518	CA		We should help everyone who needs help. We have been there and needed help and there was no one.	4/23/13 11:10
John	Kufhta	13160	NY		It helps keep low income people connected to services that they cannot afford	4/23/13 11:10
Jessica	Reed	53704			I work with people with disabilities who are seeking paid employment. Many rely on these phones because they cannot afford a phone at all. For those who don't have any sort of phone, they miss calls for interviews and are virtually never hired because employers need to be able to contact employees.	4/23/13 11:10
ron	morrisette	34234				4/23/13 11:11
David	Nunley	72956	AR		I know several people that use it if they did not they would have a phone	4/23/13 11:11
george	johnson	20743			everyone can't afford wireless.	4/23/13 11:11
Albert	Dziennik	79543	TX		It helps people.	4/23/13 11:11
delores	healey	66603	KS			4/23/13 11:11
Douglas	Neumann	54488	WI		It provides an essential service at a minimal cost.	4/23/13 11:12
Miriam	Vieni	11590	NY		It is important for all people, including poor people to be able to use our communications network.	4/23/13 11:12
Gennaro	Gargano	12118	NY		I know a few elderly women that depend on this program.	4/23/13 11:12
Donald	Braekevelt	48026	MI		This bill will protect low income families. Plus it is not taxpayer funded!	4/23/13 11:12
debra	swearingin	95207	CA		Too many of our seniors deserve and NEED this!!!	4/23/13 11:13
Mike	taylor	21703	MD		It is a way of helping people and besides at the rate our elected officials are going I just might need it myself.	4/23/13 11:13
Mary Ann	Brown	13039	NY		It has always benefitted so many people - it would be a shame to cut it now.	4/23/13 11:13
Robert	Gill	19522	PA		Everyone should have access to 911	4/23/13 11:13
Neil	Shaw	02703			it helps seniors and veterans stay connected.	4/23/13 11:13

Marcella	Jackson	60621	IL		I support the low-income Wireless Lifeline program allows people to stay connected. While looking for job it is imperative for a potential employer to be able to reach you to set up the interview and later offer a position. This position is important for parents and emergencies.	4/23/13 11:14
JIM	HENRY	16509	PA		TAX THE WEALTHY	4/23/13 11:14
Richard M	Vartanian	91116	CA			4/23/13 11:14
terry	cloyd	47331	IN		low income people need it	4/23/13 11:14
Yelena	Ryabenkiy	33351	FL		i am low income and disable	4/23/13 11:14
Paul	Haakonson	12303	NY		Great program for those who can't afford it...	4/23/13 11:14
janie	diaz	08260	TX		My elderly sister {79} disabled could not afford to have a cell phone making it impossible to communicate with anyone.	4/23/13 11:14
Karen	Levine	33158				4/23/13 11:14
Dena	Martinez	60060	IL		Im am a Low income Wireless recipient	4/23/13 11:15
Dan	Dugger	37219	TN		for folks who truly can't afford cellular service, this could be a life saver	4/23/13 11:15
Mark	Thompson	44052	OH		The Lifeline program is just that - a phone call to 911 can save a life.	4/23/13 11:16
Dennis	Cummins	72855	AR		I have friends who need the help and need a phone to be safe. They would not be able to have one if not for Lifeline	4/23/13 11:17
Gail	LaCroix-Strube	06498	CT		you never know when you may need help	4/23/13 11:17
geeta	chankasingh	10466	NY			4/23/13 11:17
Robert	Stehle	44820	OH		Because in 12 months I will be retiring and may need help. Keep up the good work.	4/23/13 11:17
Michael	Marino	03585	NH		Because the name Lifeline say's it all, It is a lifeline for those who can not afford this service on their own.	4/23/13 11:17
Jose	Montanez	12428	NY		Because my mother is senior, and my wife and I will soon be seniors too.	4/23/13 11:18
Richard	Rogers	96740	HI			4/23/13 11:18
Rebecca	Mills	77803	TX		This may be the only way for some people in need to start again and reenter the work force.	4/23/13 11:19

					Working in subsidized housing for the elderly/disabled, I have seen first hand how this program saves our residents money of telephone expenses. Residents use the extra money to pay other bills or to buy groceries. It is deinfintely a good program for the elderly and disabled population.	4/23/13 11:20
Barbara	Morin	04756	ME			
debbi	pratt	98199	WA			4/23/13 11:20
					There are those who really need this. If you want to do something do like Florida. Pass a law that will require Social Service receiptants to be drug free to receive benefits.	4/23/13 11:21
Brenda	Carter	28333	NC			
JOSEPH	WINCEK	18705	PA			4/23/13 11:21
Myrna	Sak	12866	NY			4/23/13 11:21
Adelina	Torres	79549	TX		Because sometimes I used...	4/23/13 11:21
Kevin	Crupi	49866	MI		Help these people to become productive citizens	4/23/13 11:21
					The reduced cost of communication services for the senior citizens I serve helps with their monthly expenses. The high cost of living in urban areas is a challenge for those limited income, having a reduced rate for phone services is very beneficial.	4/23/13 11:22
lone	Ishii	94102	CA			
David	Shepherd	77084	TX		no tax dollars involved and it's the right thing to do.	4/23/13 11:22
Eunice	Payton	28405	NC			4/23/13 11:22
Dena	Martinez	60060	IL		I am a reciever	4/23/13 11:22
					In our technological society, telephone service is a right and a necessity, not a privilege reserved for those who can afford it. Basic voice-only cell service is both more useful and much more affordable than landline service, so Wireless Lifeline is even more worthy of support than conventional Lifeline.	4/23/13 11:22
Marianna	Stewart	14870				
					A worthwhile program that has minimal taxpayer impact. Yes my phone bill is probably a bit higher to support the USF, but worthwhile. It should be a basic needs cell phone - no text, no web.	4/23/13 11:22
Bernd	Deve	87110	NM			

Margaret L	Brode	18252	PA		Low income people need this extra help with phone bill.	4/23/13 11:22
Linda	Carlson	51535	IA			4/23/13 11:22
malisa	dantzler	30635	GA		just to be nice...I feel in away tho that it isn't to help people like me...the situation im stuck in I have tried hard to get a free fone and other help and all I got was food stamps!...but I sign this in hopes it will help other people	4/23/13 11:24
Noreen	Allen	06076	CT		Gives people access to 911	4/23/13 11:24
Scott	Andrews	46350	IN		It Helps those who Need it, and and helps those in need of services that are sometimes unavailable to low income families.	4/23/13 11:25
John	Darovec	34202	FL		I like to help people.	4/23/13 11:25
Vincent	Carney	21001	MD		Today, having access to a telephone is not a luxury, its a necessity.	4/23/13 11:25
John	Acker	71909	AR			4/23/13 11:25
ALFRED	FERNALD	06614	CT			4/23/13 11:26
Norma	Morrissey	04073	ME		safty first!	4/23/13 11:26
Ann	Whiting	89011	NV		I have a safelink phone, which keeps me in touch with my Dr, pharmacy and daughter.	4/23/13 11:26
Joseph	Troll	72205	AR		MAIN REASON: Shared responsibility for assisting those who are less fortunate. - Secondary Reason: Additionally if we terminate the program the carriers will most likely pocket the funds they are already collecting for this program. No cost savings to the rest of us. No benefit to participants.	4/23/13 11:26
Andrea	Mitchell	53534	WI		I work with women who are homeless and it is extremely difficult for them to look for employment or housing without a phone. It is also necessary for getting connected with other resources.	4/23/13 11:26
Larry	Heinlein	32162	FL			4/23/13 11:26
Richard	Hurst	95482	CA		I am a 100 percent disabled American. I have many friends like me who either rely or will need the savings and security the Lifeline program for years provided!	4/23/13 11:27

Serenity	Smile	24521				4/23/13 11:27
Mary	Vervan	17201	PA		It is essential to the safety of low-income individuals.	4/23/13 11:27
Mary	Eicher	44606	OH			4/23/13 11:28
charles	johnson	74565	OK		my mother is on it.	4/23/13 11:28
Kevin	Gorney	48708			To give low income, unemployed folks who want to work, an avenue for prospective employers to contact them.	4/23/13 11:28
Penelope	Garcia	66214	KS		It's cheap it helps people who can't afford to have a high price phone bill I think the life line service is wonderful	4/23/13 11:29
Rev. Max	Burg	60615	IL		Because I am a member.	4/23/13 11:29
Sherrykk	Sprunger	46711	IN		a phone call can save a life or lives	4/23/13 11:30
Antonio	Rofrano	06850	CT		Because it does provide a necessary need in our modern time, without which, people who can not afford phone service, would be alienated from having contact with schools, job seeking, emergencies, family & friends connections and the like. Plus, it is very affordable to buy more minutes when they are needed. The service also gives the benefits of being, able to carry a cell phone anywhere and the basic use of calling and retrieving voice mails, just as a home phone. In addition the text messaging service is very convenient and saves voice minutes, whenever a short communication is needed. Thank You_	4/23/13 11:32
John	Kennedy	06405				4/23/13 11:33
Ramona	Carson	18980	PA		I think everyone should have access to wireless communication that they can use to stay connected & to seek help in emergencies.	4/23/13 11:33
James C	Langford	99354	WA		Because it allows low incomes to get good truthful unbiased news like other citizens	4/23/13 11:34
jay	zarowitz	49441				4/23/13 11:35
James	Santini	29461	SC			4/23/13 11:36
Mary	Clements	04105	ME			4/23/13 11:36

Peter	Etu	14223			It makes good sense to provide low-income Americans with the ability, at the very least, to quickly summon 911 assistance in the event of an emergency. Since it is not funded from Federal taxes, Congress should leave it in place and not attempt to turn it into a partisan issue.	4/23/13 11:36
Greg	Schwalm	48506	MI		It gives people that dont have a mobile phone, to use in emergencies or just to place that quick call to let someone know they've let there desination or are on there way, that dont need to talk on it all day long, very handy to keep in your purse, pocket, or glove compartment. Thank you.	4/23/13 11:36
keith	merriman	43119	OH		how can you get job if you don't have a phone. you need a job to afford a phone.	4/23/13 11:36
Karen	Webb	34449	FL		You Need to keep this Going mostly for the People,Elderly,Families that Need it..	4/23/13 11:37
Pamela	Boston	08046	NJ		In our life time we all have storms or we haven't been afforded the opportunity that others might have therefore, lets help each other since we never know if one day we might need help from the ones that were at once less fortunate than we are.	4/23/13 11:38
Freeloading	Nigger	34902	LA		I needs my free services!	4/23/13 11:38
Mark	Rowntree	92707	CA		Help the underprivileged to gain employment.	4/23/13 11:39
Kristen	Schroeder	19103			People need access to phones, especially in emergencies. Pay phones are disappearing, so what will be left if this program is also cut?	4/23/13 11:39
Eric	Siler	45103	OH		The Wireless Lifeline Program helps low-income Americans to get a job and become a taxpayer.	4/23/13 11:39
Sandra	Cole	98685	WA		Many of these people are single mothers who have to live in bad neighborhoods.. When they take public transportation to their minimum wage job they are sitting ducks to, from and at the bus stop. A mobile phone is access to help.	4/23/13 11:39

gabriel	morrow	37323	TN		this program is essential to all who are disabled and low income who need to be able to call doctors etc	4/23/13 11:39
Kaysea	Johnson	65737				4/23/13 11:40
lisa	corbin	54494	WI		Everybody should have access to a phone in case of an emergency.	4/23/13 11:40
Jimmy	Cox	88030	NM		To assist the needy to have all the programs and access to help and rescue.	4/23/13 11:40
steve	coulson	92264	CO		Its a good thing for people, positive	4/23/13 11:41
Jennifer	Cunningham	60506				4/23/13 11:41
Linda	Mortensen	55403	MN		I have been homeless three times and know the importance of having a cellphone in crisis situations. It is so vital that we extend this service to all who need it. It can help a lot of people.	4/23/13 11:41
holly	walsh	13439	NY		I am fighting cancer and need the lifeline cell service	4/23/13 11:42
Tom	Nystel	79416	TX		I may need it soon. I am retired and dealing with a greatly reduced income.	4/23/13 11:42
Anthony	Lillich	34744	FL		The need is still apparent.	4/23/13 11:42
Robert	Woodruff	47201-	IN		It's a humanitarian endeavor.	4/23/13 11:44
Jeremiah	Cutajar	95350	CA			4/23/13 11:44
Richard	Han	48103	MI			4/23/13 11:45
Leo	Schott III	64506	MO		I feel it serves a specific useful service.	4/23/13 11:45
Stephen	Denson	24450	VA			4/23/13 11:46
Harry	Dossin	76116	TX		It's pratical	4/23/13 11:46
daphne	heath	20904	MD		because I'm on a monthly fixed income and without it I would have no telecommunication.	4/23/13 11:46
Peter M	Ferrulli	18853	PA		I support it for low income persons with necessity to have it only. Right now for what I hear and see this program is way over abused. There are way too many people getting these phones on my dime that abosolutly do not deserve them. Straighten out this program then I will support it.	4/23/13 11:46
April	Bowers	79382	TX		Every single person in the nation should be able to call for help when needed!	4/23/13 11:47
Robert	Gartner	12419	NY			4/23/13 11:47

John	Eakins	52501	IA			4/23/13 11:47
John	Krizov	93550				4/23/13 11:47
Robin	Fulgham	14094	NY		Mostly for seniors who cannot afford service otherwise.	4/23/13 11:47
ed	flees	49345	MI		Because it a needed service	4/23/13 11:47
Joan	Quinn	13732	NY			4/23/13 11:48
Philip M.	Kober, JD, MD, PhD	53704	WI		This is another simple and cost-effective program to support vulnerable people in society. As I am disabled and retired and on a fixed income, I personally know what it means to be one of those vulnerable people. We have no right to ignore such people!	4/23/13 11:48
Patty	Harter	37217	TN		Hlep them get a job!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	4/23/13 11:48
Larry	Sterner	80204			I'm the one paying for it on my monthly Bill	4/23/13 11:48
Rox	Petoskey	48858	MI			4/23/13 11:49
Tim	Willardson	84115	UT		Telephone is an important tool for economic viability. Removing that service from people at the low end of the income scale will hurt those who need help the most.	4/23/13 11:49
Tammy	Dunn	34655				4/23/13 11:49
Jose	Santos	06001	CT		Low Income people need all the help they can get and this is an important benefit.	4/23/13 11:50
MALLORY	KAELIN	32304	FL		BECAUSE EVERY ONE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO CONTACT SOMEONE IN A TIME OF NEED. WOMEN IN ABUSIVE SITUATIONS, ELDERLY PEOPLE, PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEMS. OFTEN THESE ARE THE VERY FOLKS WHO CAN'T AFFORD CELL PHONES, OR ANY PHONE FOR THAT MATTER.	4/23/13 11:50
Roger	Hosfeld	61114			This is an effective way to keep low income families from slipping further from their ties to the community.	4/23/13 11:50
deborah	taylor	30753	GA		My grandmother has it and desperately needs it.	4/23/13 11:50
Marie	White	98625	WA		It has been my lifeline when I was seriously ill and needed immediate help. Do not cut this program as it does more GOOD than HARM!!!!	4/23/13 11:51
roland	veilleux	04901	ME		for us poor people thank you	4/23/13 11:51

EDWARD	HUTTO	33771			yes,i we,@you paid maw@pop bell paid for years.	4/23/13 11:51
Jere	Mcfadden	44310				4/23/13 11:52
CAROLYN	MILLICAN	38117	TN		I believe it has helped a number of low income people to connect with emergency services. I believe it should continue.	4/23/13 11:52
Amber	Thompson	03582				4/23/13 11:52
Edna	McIntyre	48601	MI		To help low income people have a telephone to communicate with.	4/23/13 11:52
Karen	Stone	14225	NY		I believe a cell phone might well save a life. It is a hardship to maintain one for seniors and people on a budget offered by social services, especially in a job hunt. Particularly in NYS, where the taxes and fees are at least 10 times the Federal taxes.	4/23/13 11:53
John	Bohn	92008	CA		the needs of the extremely poor can be met, and all can utilize modern communications. Me included	4/23/13 11:54
Kurt	Marden	01720	MA			4/23/13 11:55
Ronald	Bogin	94530	CA			4/23/13 11:55
Ralph	Phelps	50058	IA			4/23/13 11:56
Melissa	Barnard	13144	NY		I am a Lifeline subscriber and rely on this service rely on this service to make all my doctors appts. as well as receive information from my doctors and hospital. I have worked my whole life and at 49 became declared disabled by SSA. Without this reduction in my phone bill I would be forced to reduce things like medicine, doctor appts., etc. Melissa	4/23/13 11:57
ALICE M	CLAY	23188	VA		USEFUL FOR LOW INCOME PEOPLE TO CALL FOR HELP IN AN EMERGENCY	4/23/13 11:57
Sharon	Alexander	76444				4/23/13 11:57
Roksana	Akter	91352	CA		Because I am using this wireless connection.	4/23/13 11:57
Gary	Rash	28147	NC		Is not taxpayer funded	4/23/13 11:57
Andrea	Williams	33064	FL		Its my only means of communication, as I am a low income earner and cannot afford a regular cell phone.	4/23/13 11:58
Joel	Vignere	59922	MT			4/23/13 11:59

William I.	Purdy	79930	TX		I am a member of the low income group and the Lifeline program has, financially, saved my money and kept in touch with emergency agencies and my family It's a good endeavor.	4/23/13 11:59
rita	meuer	53704	WI		I have family members who are in need of these phones. Do you?	4/23/13 12:01
Ernest	Watson	95006				4/23/13 12:01
Carl	Rosencrown	08527	NJ		Lifeline is a Necessity, not a luxury.	4/23/13 12:01
Laverne	Price	43215			There are many seniors and handicap people who can not afford a traditional phone line and this allows then to have access to their doctors, family and emergency services they may need.	4/23/13 12:01
Mark	Cappetta	92270	CA			4/23/13 12:02
priscilla	hatcher	35204	AL			4/23/13 12:02
Steven	Sotsky	11361	NY		It works for me	4/23/13 12:02
Adam	Stein	14622	NY			4/23/13 12:02
rex	hobbs	42303	KY		because as a below poverty person this is something i may need before long	4/23/13 12:03
Lorie	Tame	81083	CO		For low income recipients , in America . And there is a growing number of us who Need this,service.	4/23/13 12:03
Louis	Jones	40068	KY		These people need it for emergencies	4/23/13 12:03
Adam	Stein	14622	NY			4/23/13 12:04
Cindy	Ankney	45432	OH		I support this because all households in the United States need some form of telephone services to reach police and fire/rescue services. I do not care who provides these services (wireless vs land line), but they are needed as our population expands and ages. Thank You :)!	4/23/13 12:04
Marcy	Shapiro	55422	MN			4/23/13 12:04
lynn	duncan	75067	TX		It keeps a lot of low income people connected to various helpfull things and is not funded by taxpayer dollars..	4/23/13 12:04
John	Kavinsky	89012				4/23/13 12:05

					I AM ONE OF MANY PEOPLE ON LOW INCOME AND SUCH PROGRAMS ALLOW PEOPLE TO RECIEVE THE HELP THEY NEED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS THAT WE RECIEVE EVERY MONTH. WE FOR MOST PART DON'T HAVE FUNDS TO SURVIVE FROM MONTH TO MONTH TO BUY FOOD AFTER PAYING UTILITY BILLS AND MEDICAL BILLS, PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS AWAY FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS WELL. YOU AT SOME POINT MAY BE IN THE SAME SITUATION LIKE MANY AMERICANS, SO PLEASE THINK LONG AND HARD WHAT YOU ARE SIGNING. GO BACK AND READ WHAT THIS ACTUALLY DOES BEFORE YOU JUST SIGNING SOMETHING JUST TO GET IT OUT OF THE WAY. THINK LONG AND HARD , BECAUSE IT COULD SOMEDAY EFFECT YOU, AND IF NOT YOU SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR.	
Linda	Abla	68005	NE			4/23/13 12:05
Verda	Grabinski	54601	WI			4/23/13 12:05
Jill	Renner	83544	ID		I think this is important for senior safety	4/23/13 12:06
Stuart	Kravis	44141				4/23/13 12:07
Jessi	Grant	57747	SD		I am a senior citizen on a fixed income. I was a stay at home mom with little income. So I have little social security. I would be without phone services if I had to pay full price for my phone. Please leave this in place. I know I'm not the only person in this position.	4/23/13 12:07
Matthew	Hull	39503	MS		The program provides a way of communication to those who need it and are unable to afford the cost of the communication	4/23/13 12:08
Lorette	Theberge	32168	FL		Great program for seniors and other low-income people who can't afford other communication methods to reach emergency personnel	4/23/13 12:08
Albert	Miranda	77071	TX		I see this program as a link to employment for the unemployed and seniors citizens to stay in touch with their loved ones.	4/23/13 12:08

Jessica	Stone	07030	NJ		I believe that parents who can't afford cell phone contracts or house phones should be able to contact their child's school or doctors, same goes for seniors. This is a great service to the low income community, I really hope it can continue.	4/23/13 12:09
Ed	Simmons	33063	FL		So those who have lost a job may have the ability to communicate to get other employment. Also so seniors on limited income can afford to be able to communicate with health workers and family.	4/23/13 12:09
Robert	Ennis	24538	VA		You never know...I might need it my-self one day.	4/23/13 12:09
Michael	Rose	48113	MI		To provide necessary access to Seniors with health issues. Gives so peace of mind to Seniors and their families	4/23/13 12:09
carolyn	wheeler	98012			We need everyone in the US able to participate in the process of being citizens - not just those financially capable.	4/23/13 12:10
Carl	Moss	76311	TX		I'm A retired senior citizen	4/23/13 12:10
Dale	Homme	01376	MA		Lifeline helps me pay my phone bill every month. It makes a world of difference.	4/23/13 12:11
michael	sweeney	72764	AR		I am one that benefits from the lifeline program. This allows me to stay in touch without paying high phone bills!	4/23/13 12:12
Leon	Easter	98101	WA		It works	4/23/13 12:12
michael	hinish	18974	PA		Its the right thing to do. To help the people in our country.	4/23/13 12:12
Dennis	Olson	57401	SD		This service is exactly what the name implies, "Lifeline". For some this service is the difference between life and death!	4/23/13 12:12
Alfonso	Rosario	00754	PR			4/23/13 12:12
Charles	Baker	40741	KY		This is a life-saving program especially for senior citizens who otherwise could not afford phone service.	4/23/13 12:13
Holly	Slayback	11769	NY		To allow residents excess to phone calls and for safety issues.	4/23/13 12:13

greg and leshia	rivers	44833	OH		seniors and those that are disabled need these phones, without them they may not be able to get help when needed.	4/23/13 12:14
Kurt	Leith	06066	CT		I am disabled & depend on this service.	4/23/13 12:14
Anita	Fox	53705	WI		The very poor need a way to keep in touch with doctors, employers, family and friends. Many cannot afford even the least expensive cell phones.	4/23/13 12:14
Thyra	Currie	28340			This is an important asset for those that might not other wise be able to afford a phone such as the elderly, the disabled, families with children and those that live in rural areas.	4/23/13 12:15
Sheila	Thompson	35645	AL		It helps alot of people that cannot afford a phone especially the disabled and elderly	4/23/13 12:15
marie	Johns	06066	CT		If not for this service I'd have no cell phone in an emergency.	4/23/13 12:16
Anastacia	Russell	46241	IN		Americans need cell phone service for emergencies, no matter their income.	4/23/13 12:16
James	Carpenter	02762				4/23/13 12:17
Doralee	Sandoe	44460	OH		Some people can not afford the high cost of cell phones. We lifeline cells we can have a phone if our car breaks down to we need to call some one for something important	4/23/13 12:17
Dennis	Basnett	26554	WV		Too often, the name says it all; 'Life' - line.	4/23/13 12:17
Louis	Willis	30032	GA			4/23/13 12:18
Phyllis	Main	13021	NY		I know many families that use and need this service. One single mother was thankful when she had to call 911	4/23/13 12:18

Aaron	Bird	01220	MA		I support this bills because it helps me to stay in touch with my loved one's. I have had major back surgery an have to work because I was told I was young enjoy to keep going. Even though my doctors said no. I need a phone in case something happens to me an I need to call my mom or sister or 911. An with the hard times now it makes it even harder. Please keep this going so people like me have peace of mind knowing that my government is there for me even if they say I will hurt my self more working an one day will not able to walk, or something worse. Thank you	4/23/13 12:19
Tom	Burns	93436	CA		It is democratic and needed.	4/23/13 12:19
MrMrs Charles Nithisa	Pantino	32034			It makes sense.	4/23/13 12:19
Jeffrey	Simon	54501	WI		I have no job and it's been almost 4 years . I need this phone as much as you need assault weapons . I've paid taxes for your other "programs" with you now refer to a "entitlements" for 40 years and I "entitled" to have this phone for emergency's and to look for that "job" I might "never" find due to your lack of support of the current administration . Take my phone away and ANY of our ENTITLEMENTS and I and others like me will "TAKE YOUR JOBS AWAY" by not voting for the "nays" on this and other entitlements next election . Mr. Simon	4/23/13 12:20
Freda	Burroughs	48504	MI		I am on the lifeline program and it has allowed me the ability to be ability to be contacted at work right away when my children are I'll. It also has allowed me to be able to get assistance	4/23/13 12:21
Freda	Burroughs	48504	MI		I am on the lifeline program and it has allowed me the ability to be ability to be contacted at work right away when my children are I'll. It also has allowed me to be able to get assistance	4/23/13 12:21

Doris	Karnila	01605	MA		My mother-in-law benefited from it for several years and now that I am a senior citizen I'm aware that I might soon need this vital service. I have also seen many other people in my social circle over the years who's lives have been saved by the ability to call 911 in an emergency.	4/23/13 12:21
John	Szalkowski	07032	NJ		Telecommunications is the lifeline for this country - no one should be denied this service.	4/23/13 12:22
Nancy	Strong	32708	FL			4/23/13 12:22
Barbara	Johnson	56714	MN			4/23/13 12:22
Anna	Martin	32137	FL		I am a senior on a fixed income and know of others that this is REALLY a Lifeline.	4/23/13 12:22
Thomas	Rutherford	48519	MI		My SafeLink cell phone is the only phone I have, and if I didn't have it, I'd have a tough time having to go back to a landline. Many people in the building where I live depend on it as well. If the FCC is already working on ways of cutting Lifeline fraud, let them do it. It's their job to take care of telecommunications!	4/23/13 12:22
Marsha	Cowen Hosfeld	61114	IL		We cannot be our best when the struggling in our society are left behind. We are all in this together.	4/23/13 12:24
Deborah	Donnison	32931			Thai was started by Republicans and George Bush, so the Repubs should be Enfavor of this great idea. KEEP LIFELINE and stop taking from to poor to give to the rich!	4/23/13 12:24
Howard	Luebke	43612	OH		Because low income people are NOT ALWAYS completely responsible for their income level OFTEN big bankers and big business just want to cut their jobs to fill their own greedy pockets. The lower income folks need our help.	4/23/13 12:25
Sebastian	Morell	10027			I support the lifeline program because Verizon has refused to provide this service to many eligible disabled, low-income and senior citizens.	4/23/13 12:25
Bonnie	Rabine	58436	ND		I have a mother that is 84 yrs. old & it helps her to live by herself as long as possible which in the long run helps us all is cheaper for the state also.	4/23/13 12:25

Herbert C.	Ziegler	92399	CA			4/23/13 12:26
Claudia	DeMello	47802	IN		I have friends and family who would be unable to call for assistance without this service. Please do not take this service away.	4/23/13 12:27
Bobby	FRENCH	76801	TX		Because it helps save so many lives and does not cost any money to the Because it saves so many lives and does not cost anything to our annual budget. Lot's of people can't afford this service so it is a great service. Please do not end this program.	4/23/13 12:28
Dan	Dampier	32725	FL		If someone is basically broke it helps them to possibly find work and talk to their relatives. And the best reason I can think of to have a land line, is in case the power goes out a land line is more dependable than cell phones. Cell phones are also not usually as clear so it is harder to understand people.	4/23/13 12:29
Ann	Hunt	98275	WA			4/23/13 12:29
Judy	Lowry	08550	NJ		because it's fair	4/23/13 12:30
Kenneth	Vasko	49920	MI			4/23/13 12:34
Timothy	Patnode	12180	NY		I support for the disabled community which my wife and I are part of. Thank you.	4/23/13 12:34
Tamara	Hedlund	54241	WI		I am a low income person, I have a family of 3 and I am trying to survive on the \$720 I get each month from disability. I have a lifeline phone and I don't know what I would do without it. This phone helps me get in contact with different programs that are useful to me, it allows me to set up doctors appointments for my family and I, and it allows me to call 911 in case of an emergency. I have a 16 month old daughter and being without a phone is not an option, however I cannot afford an actual phone plan. Please do not get rid of the lifeline plan, my family depends on it.	4/23/13 12:34
J.	Reyes	78645	TX		It helps low income veterans (& others)!	4/23/13 12:36
Dave	Durham	45314				4/23/13 12:36

Darlene	Thomas	38654	MS		I think it's a wonderful idea to help low income and seniors. Helps for finding work, doctor appointments, emergency calls, and let's seniors keep in touch with family. They should up the free minutes too..Gave back government, since the government is suppose to be for the people by the people, but some how the 1% and Washington has forgotten that fact..	4/23/13 12:36
Dorothy	Thornton	39066				4/23/13 12:36
Bonnie	Rabine	58436	ND		My mother inlaw has one now & it takes a load off of our minds to know all she has to do is hit the button & she can be helped.Keep this good program for our seniors. Thank you	4/23/13 12:36
Lori	Riggs	43015	OH	Community Action of Organization Delaware	Many of our clients are low income and have no resources to afford a regular phone. With the lifeline phone, program, they are better able to connect with agencies, schedule Dr. Appointments, stay in contact with utilities, and follow up on referrals.	4/23/13 12:37
Dorothy	Thornton	39066				4/23/13 12:37
Trudy	Brooks	46208	IN		Because many people cannot afford a phone and need to access to a phone and it is wel needed program.	4/23/13 12:37
Karen	Leonardi	08807	NJ		Although I don't use it at this time, I may have to in the future, since I have a limited source of income. Not everyone is fortunate in this world to have a high salary at the expense of others. I feel it is necessary to help people in need.	4/23/13 12:38
Andrew	Cameron	32501	FL		Need to make doctor app and keep in touch with family	4/23/13 12:38
Carol	Hatfield	46227				4/23/13 12:38
William	Alemán	00926	PR		It supports low income families, they can focus more on getting jobs and money than telecommunications.	4/23/13 12:39

gloria	benak	91709	CA		Everyone should have contact with their family. This economy has taken its toll. No one should be alone	4/23/13 12:39
Jeff	Lowry	15905	PA			4/23/13 12:40
Bill	Britt	12282	NY		Have elder relatives this is their only phone they are able to afford!	4/23/13 12:40
Florence	Holmes	79930	TX			4/23/13 12:40
Linda	Fountaine	33903	FL		Lifeline is a very important and sometimes life saving tool for Seniors and disabled on a small fixed income.	4/23/13 12:41
Patty	Grogan	93901	CA			4/23/13 12:41
Larissa	Alioth	97383	OR			4/23/13 12:41
Shirley	Patterson	75103	TX			4/23/13 12:41
Lekeisha	Veasley	50701	IA		Because I believe that everyone should have access to emergency services. The lifeline program is a critical service to low-mod income families who can't afford to pay for phone service.	4/23/13 12:42
Harriet	Mathis	33308	FL		My son, diagnosed manic depressive, has benefited from this service when he could not manage owning a cell phone. I am grateful.	4/23/13 12:42
RODGER	PETERSON	34607	FL			4/23/13 12:42
Anna	Taaffe	77301	TX		It is exactly what it is called - a lifeline!	4/23/13 12:43
Beth	Hoff	53562	WI		First off because I am a participant in this program and I use it to call long distance to family and use it for emergencies while I am driving.	4/23/13 12:43
Kevin	Joyce	20832	MD			4/23/13 12:44
caressa	howard	98541	WA		i have a low income family and the lifeline service helps my family keep in contact through health issues and without it my family wont have a phone to contact anyone for a while if it gets cut from us.	4/23/13 12:44
Diane	Straka	53543	WI		Yes, please keep it.	4/23/13 12:45
Mimi	Winter	86326	AZ		I have a wireless lifeline and it is very important to me. I would not have communications with lifeline services when i am away from home without it. I cannot afford a cell phone.	4/23/13 12:45

hether	bailey	12182	NY		There is a definate neef for this service if taken away remember I VOTE.	4/23/13 12:46
NADINE	DAY	20019	DC		IMPORTANT THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE ABILITY TO FAMILY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES VIA LIFELINE CELLPHONES.	4/23/13 12:46
Freda	Burroughs	48504	MI		It has afford me the ability to get help when my car broke down, and receive help quickly, as a woman that is very important to me.	4/23/13 12:46
Sharon	Norman	49837	MI		This is a good program for older adults and for disabled persons of lower income that would not have a phone	4/23/13 12:47
NADINE	DAY	20019	DC		IMPORTANT THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO FAMILY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES VIA THE LIFELINE CELLPHONE NETWORK.	4/23/13 12:48
James	Pilewski	44095	OH		Are we a caring republic or are we just a capitalist ultimate fighting competition?	4/23/13 12:48
George	Henretty	16335	PA		This is a great tool I myself am disabled and we disabled and elderly need everything we can get.	4/23/13 12:48
Vicki	Hawkins	65773	MO			4/23/13 12:49
Brennan	Pope	73162	OK		I believe every American should have access to phone service for emergency purposes, for participation in the labor market and really any other use. I believe this program should be expanded to basic Internet service as well.	4/23/13 12:49
Andrea	Mullet	43040	OH		I am a Family Development Specialist for Community Action in Marysville, OH. This program allows phone access to clients, who would otherwise be unable to afford landlines or conventional cell phone service. This includes the elderly, single mothers and veterans. Cutting this program would drastically effect the quality of their lives. It would put them at risk of not having access to emergeny services and not having access to employment. Thank you for your consideration.	4/23/13 12:50

Elizabeth	Tucci	53716	WI		I have been an advocate for survivors of domestic abuse for over 6 years, and I have seen the Wireless Lifeline program serve an incredibly important purpose in helping keep survivors safe once they've left their abusive relationships.	4/23/13 12:50
Ruben	Sanchez	60641			Lifeline is such a simple idea and yet such a cost-effective way to keep low-income people - including seniors and veterans - connected to job opportunities, 911, and other services!	4/23/13 12:50
M	Leszczynski	48446	MI			4/23/13 12:51
jeff	Deaton	47353	IN			4/23/13 12:51
bob	Barker	94561	CA		Lifeline is a great tool to provide emergency services and basic phone service to help keep people connected and get a job.	4/23/13 12:52
Max	Haiflich	33823	FL		The Lifeline wireless Lifeline program helps millions of people stay connected to Family, Doctors, Medical and Emergency help.	4/23/13 12:53
joseph	wilkins	16143	PA		i do not support free phones.it is bull shit.	4/23/13 12:53
Susan	Preston	32658	FL			4/23/13 12:53
Raymond	Brown	76542	TX			4/23/13 12:53
Jeanette	Adams	88352	NM		If we truly care about supporting low-income people, then we should not be wiping out yet another resource previously available to them.	4/23/13 12:54
Susannah	Tahk	53715	WI			4/23/13 12:56
John	Singer	21230			because seniors and Vets take enough beating from our gov as it is, the poor people need all the help we can give!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	4/23/13 12:56
John	Carenco	95540	CA		Because you've hurt veterans enough already.	4/23/13 12:56
Jeanette	Gregory	71457	LA		It is designed to help less fortunate people.	4/23/13 12:58
Russell	Baer	02740	MA		Some people need this important source of communications	4/23/13 12:58
James	Smith	75839	TX		I think it is very vital and an excellent program.	4/23/13 12:58
Carolyn	McCarthy	13041	NY		This is a needed service for seniors and others for emergencies and other vital reasons. Thank you.	4/23/13 12:59
Kevin	Cohan	54839	WI		A Very Important Program for Low Income individuals...	4/23/13 12:59

Gary	Bodine	39402	MS		For family safety! ie-911	4/23/13 13:04
Roger	Carr	75801	TX			4/23/13 13:04
Tom	Williams	65251			This service is vital to low-income people.	4/23/13 13:04
Roberto J	Martinez Jr	78043	TX		For people with low income that can't afford telephone service. Also can save a life in case of an emergency.	4/23/13 13:05
DEborah	Charlow	34601	FL		WE are a compassionate and caring people. We all are our brother's keeper and we look out for one another. There is no room to look down on others in the name of efficiency or less government and those who do are hypocrites of which we seem to have a super abundance.	4/23/13 13:06
David	Coonan	12979	NY		This type of program saves lives because of the access to E 911	4/23/13 13:06
Sali	Vaughn	10990	NY		Because I have it !	4/23/13 13:06
Rick	Bolotin	22206	VA		Not everyone can afford Cell phones, Smart phones or other new technology! Especially those of us on Disability.	4/23/13 13:06
Shirley	Meier	63031	MO			4/23/13 13:07
Rosie	Johnson	39212	MS		I believe it's a great way for the less fortunate to means means of communication.	4/23/13 13:07
Richard	Hoffman	12057	NY		I think that it is important for all our citizens to be able to contact family members in any emergency	4/23/13 13:09
Eugene	Dinse	48734				4/23/13 13:10
kenneth	waldvogel	54761	WI		My income is very low and I can't afford to the high prices for wireless services from att and Verizon. I use this program to have service away from home.	4/23/13 13:10
barbara	hauver	28468	NC			4/23/13 13:10
Ruth	Warburton	18411 1861	PA			4/23/13 13:10
David	Kuehn	55033	MN			4/23/13 13:11

Sara	Spurgeon	85015	AZ		I was a homemaker for 20 years and then I worked outside my home for 23 years. I get \$766. dollars from Social Security and that is all I have. I live in an apartment. My rent is more than half my income and that doesn't include utilities. Lifeline is my only phone. I depend on it to call for help, to call my doctor, etc. I can barely afford to live and there is no room in my budget for a phone bill.	4/23/13 13:11
Wanda	Moore	35208	AL		I might need it one day	4/23/13 13:11
Ralph	Drake	98277	WA		It allows families to stay in touch	4/23/13 13:14
Anne	Strader	75068			Begun under a Republican president and expanded under another Republican president, Lifeline is a crucial program for low income citizens, especially seniors and the disabled, for whom it can be a literal lifeline when emergency services are needed. Those now attacking the Lifeline program and calling it "Obama phones" are lying and they know it. This is just one more way Conservatives in Congress are attempting to require lower and middle-class to support the country disproportionately, while their wealthy contributors grow ever fatter at the expense of the rest of us. Do NOT let this happen!	4/23/13 13:16
Leo	Kuczynski	06410	CT		To help low-income Americans stay in touch with essential services.	4/23/13 13:17
Richaed	Porter	29130	SC			4/23/13 13:17
Mrs. Edwin	McVay	52213	IA		We have to stand together as seniors. Seems that they always look at senior things to cut first. How about their wages??? this is a necessary program.	4/23/13 13:17
GWENDOLYN	VENAY	15206	PA		I FEEL THAT IT IS TRULY NEEDED TO HELP LOW~INCOME FAMILIES...LOOKING TO FIND WORK OR BEING ABLE TO STAY CONNECTED WITH THEIR CHILDREN' SCHOOL...	4/23/13 13:17
Brian Todd	Mizuki	91001	CA		To support low income individual needs in cases of life emergencies.	4/23/13 13:17
Judith	McNea	48911	MI			4/23/13 13:18

Barron	Littlefield	37870			I have know several persons who could not have had a phone otherwise.	4/23/13 13:18
Samella	Olusoga	74128	OK		I am on Social Security as a lot of other senior citizens are and Lifeline is for most of us are the only way we have to communicate. You are trying to take Social Security away from us and now you want to take Lifeline; what is next putting all of us in concentration camps? We have worked many years and would like some peace in our senior years why don't you stop trying to kill us off with stress.	4/23/13 13:19
Julia	Foster	93901	CA	YWCA	The Wireless Lifeline program gives low-income individuals the opportunity to connect to vital services that they would not have access to otherwise.	4/23/13 13:19
John H	Rudolph	48213	MI		IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO LOW-INCOME PERSON'S!!	4/23/13 13:20
Amanda	Whaley	32210				4/23/13 13:20
sandy	mullins	43130	OH		I know many who use the service including my elderly disabled mother in law.That could not afford a wireless with out the program.	4/23/13 13:21
Melvin	Cottrell	20019	DC		It a needed program for those who need to stay in touch with other on the go,or in case of an emergency.	4/23/13 13:21
Kevin	Berry	27603	NC		I support the proposal to CUT this program and to also reduce the fees I pay to TELCO's for Universal Service Fund (USF). Since when did a cellphone become a necessity of life. Last time I check those items were food, shelter , heat and basic medical care.	4/23/13 13:22
Catherine	Ross	01236	MA			4/23/13 13:22
Deborah	Jacobson	58801			It is called Lifeline for a purpose so let us continue to make it a lifeline.	4/23/13 13:23
Elizabeth	Gokey	53704	WI		I work with veterans who rely on these phones.	4/23/13 13:23
Michael	Brogan	32696	FL		My wife is disabled, we live on fixed incomes, and depend on lifeline for communications.	4/23/13 13:24

Robert	Vroegh	52732	IA		Many seniors are dependent on this program.	4/23/13 13:24
Marianne	Brody	19090	PA			4/23/13 13:25
Diane	Kay	97015			I support because seniors and veterans deserve our support. Communication with cell phones should eventually become free to all in the future.	4/23/13 13:25
Evelyn	Kelly	90807	CA		I know people that having Lifeline means the difference between having or not having necessary home telephone service.	4/23/13 13:26
Florentino	Ruiz	78526	TX		It helps low income people stay in touch with what they need to get ahead in life; work, school, emergencies, etc...	4/23/13 13:26
Paul	Smith	12090	NY		Because it is a vital service that be available to those who would not otherwise be able to afford it. Lives and jobs depend on it.	4/23/13 13:26
Joann	Gallentine	47579			For parents of small children who may not afford cell service	4/23/13 13:26
Joann	Gallentine	47579			For parents of small children who may not afford cell service	4/23/13 13:26
Marian	Kozlowski	93436	CA		it helps those who can't afford it and really need it.	4/23/13 13:26
latonya	mckellar	75702			I receive a home phone through the wireless lifeline program and I appreciate the help with paying my phone bill.	4/23/13 13:27
Sharon	Riley	98801	WA			4/23/13 13:28
Emma	Young	47579			It helps	4/23/13 13:29
deb	kearns	86322			It's the least we can do to help our vulnerable low-income citizens!	4/23/13 13:29
Paul	Dinu	97056	OR		A successful program - begun under the Reagan administration, facilitates minimal telephone access for low income consumers, no tax burden involved - a net benefit to the economy - unjustly, and inaccurately attacked by the likes of Rush Limbaugh	4/23/13 13:30
Jim	Miller	95633			no cost to consumers	4/23/13 13:31

Samuel	Jeffries	40152	KY		There are several reasons. One, what if a man or woman were in a halfway house. It would be easier to give a cell phone number to a perspective employer. Another is what if you didn't have a home. Some homeless do look for work. What phone number would they give? Also, what about safety. Low income people do drive. What if they have a second or third shift job. In an accident, they could call for help, given they were conscious.	4/23/13 13:31
June	Arnett	75211	TX		I am on lifeline for my home phone my average phone bill is \$33.00 a month W/O any long distance I can't afford it..Lifeline pays about half of it, I have copd, Asthma, HBP, I am on Oxygen and breathing treatments from working with chemicals a lot of illnesses. Without help with my phone I could not survive I need this service to meet my bills. And to help me be able to buy groceries.	4/23/13 13:31

					Because it helps low-income people to have a phone who could not normally afford a phone. Unemployed people cannot get jobs without a phone for the prospective employer to contact them at. Helping especially the unemployed or underemployed to get a job will help them to become more independent of government assistance. Taking away the this program would mean a lot of people will be without phones because they cannot afford them. A phone, whether landline or cell phone, is necessary, not a luxury to get a job, or for safety reasons. People who end up homeless on the streets because of financial issues would be better able to communicate with friends and family or find shelter if they have a cell phone. Having this cell phone from this program allowed my son to get a job by having a means for his prospective employer to contact him when he became unemployed and I did not have money from my school financial aid money to pay for a phone. I'm going to school because I lost my job and have been unable to get another job in my field. So I am getting education in another career field. But I did not have any savings to help us out, neither did my son when he lost his previous job. So having the free cell phone really helped us to improve our financial situation.	
Linda	Light	85022	AZ			4/23/13 13:31
Sandra	Allen	97457	OR		So many people need this vital program	4/23/13 13:32
Ronald E	Dean	40475	KY			4/23/13 13:33
Jay	Miltner	70605			Being able to call for help is a life or death ability. It is the most important benefit anyone can offer their fellow human. More important than any other benefit. Change how it can be used but never drop it completely.	4/23/13 13:33
Sandra	Allen	97457	OR			4/23/13 13:34

John	Lininger	76082	TX		Because it is beneficial to the low income,elderly,handicapped,& disabled	4/23/13 13:35
Rick	Rodela	92551	CA		Because I no how important it is for the under privileged to have phones.	4/23/13 13:35
Nancy	Allen	53575	WI		so low income people can keep on using it.	4/23/13 13:35
Pamela	Kells	01364	MA		My mother had this service when my father died and it was comforting for me to know someone was checking in on my mother when I was unable being 300 miles away. This is a very important service for the elderly and folks in need. I would hate to see it go away. Please make a cut where it is not effecting the ones with the lowest income.	4/23/13 13:35
Jean	Barber	65536	MO		People Do Need This Service.	4/23/13 13:36
HAROLD	FRANCIS	32127			This program seems to be a simple and worthwhile effort to keep people safe and connected.	4/23/13 13:36
Nelson	Alvarez	90041	CA		people need it on special seniors,and dissably people. Don` t cut it.	4/23/13 13:36
Colleen	Glaser	38460	TN		I use it myself, and don't know what I would do without it.	4/23/13 13:37
Jeff	Charpentier	54703	WI		Cellphones are one of the most important safety tools we have today. People now need them, more than ever. How long would the Boston Marathon Bombing investigation had taken without Vigilant Citizens and Smartphones? Don't screw this up.	4/23/13 13:37
Colleen	Glaser	38460	TN		I use it myself and don't know what I would do without it	4/23/13 13:38
Nancy	Woodwell-Freedman	06482	CT			4/23/13 13:38
Ronald	Hollis	95608	CA			4/23/13 13:38
Maria	Yxta	92324	CA		I am a retired person with a fixed income please do not stop this program	4/23/13 13:38
Maria	Yxta	92324	CA		I am a retired person with a fixed income please do not stop this program	4/23/13 13:39
Socorro	Bernal	93901	CA	Housing Resource Center	Its beneficial for those who have no other means of communication.	4/23/13 13:40

William	Nusbaum	55426	MN		I am one of the poor people who benefit from this program. We are barely making it as it is and this program is quite helpful to me and my family!	4/23/13 13:40
Cheryl	Heppner	22032	VA		I support this program because it is the right thing to do and because it is so very important for health, safety, and security.	4/23/13 13:40
MARTA	LIBONATI	92882	CA		IM LOW INCOME SENIOR AND THIS IS A REAL NEED.	4/23/13 13:40
Robert	Faden	74948	OK			4/23/13 13:40
Melissa	States	17372	PA		I feel it is important to help people that are unable to afford to do so theirselves. Especially considering the amount of money wasted overpaying government officials. Nothing against anyone, i just feel it is much needed. Melissa J States	4/23/13 13:41
Marc	Patterson	37804	TN			4/23/13 13:42
Steve	Menage	56187	MN			4/23/13 13:42
Maria	Buell	93940	CA		Provides access to basic services for people who can't afford ridiculous bills from telephone companies. It's a life-saving device that cannot be taken away.	4/23/13 13:42
Michael	Harcar	19533	PA			4/23/13 13:43
Francis	Lattanzi	20715	MD		It is good idea to help a lot of people remain connected.	4/23/13 13:43
Christopher	Bankston	94087	TN			4/23/13 13:43
Michelle	Yeung	94555	CA			4/23/13 13:43
Enoch	Fung	94111	CA		The low income people/senior/handicapped need this phone to keep in contact with their relatives and friends. They also need the phone to call 911	4/23/13 13:44
Lee	Rogers	03257	NH			4/23/13 13:44
Scott	Heigl	14206	NY		Essential in for those less fortunate in cost. Also for those with critical health and elderly!	4/23/13 13:45
Yvette	Baini	34482				4/23/13 13:45
Steve	Tyler	92865	CA			4/23/13 13:45
Anthony	Higa	90066	CA		With tough economic times. I may soon to become a participant of this great program.	4/23/13 13:46

mini	kaplan	33139	FL			4/23/13 13:46
OSCAR	SAENZ	78610	TX		ITS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH FOR SENIORS WHO CANT AFFORD CELL SERVICE...THAT IS TOO HIGH COST.	4/23/13 13:47
Beverly	Youngs	13659	NY		We depend on these services.	4/23/13 13:47
Hannah	Washington	77066	TX		It helps during emergency	4/23/13 13:47
Hannah	Washington	77066	TX		It helps during emergency	4/23/13 13:47
Mercedes	Munoz	11375	NY			4/23/13 13:48
Jorge	De Nava	95357	CA		It helps low income residents, disabled people and senior citizens stay in touch with their families and their community.	4/23/13 13:48
tuong	trang	12209	NY		I support the low-income wireless Lifeline program because it safe life.	4/23/13 13:49
Alita	Bruce	35242	AL		Very good program provided to low-income families.	4/23/13 13:49
David	Summers	62010				4/23/13 13:51
Lee	Jahrsdoerfer	11542	NY		As a person who is on a fixed pension income any additional costs could be detrimental.	4/23/13 13:53
Laura	Campos	76513	TX	TX A&M Coop. Ext. (Bell Co.)	I serve these limited resources audiences and I understand the importance of having a way to communicate, especially when they also lack of transportation,	4/23/13 13:53
David	moross	49346	MI		BECAUSE IT'S NEEDED!	4/23/13 13:54
stephanie	bittner	08102	NJ		Because I see how many people are in desperate need for is as an employee of a non-profit organization who services those in need of financial assistance.	4/23/13 13:54
Monika	Wallace	85345	AZ	Labor's Community Service Agency	As a social worker I know how often families have to choose between using their money to pay for day care, transportation to and from work, etc. and spending money on phones. However, phone contact is necessary to improve and protect the lives of many families.	4/23/13 13:55
James	Beach	49341	MI		I'm low income and disabled and use one if they cut it I won't have a phone only internet contact.	4/23/13 13:55

Bonnie	Cohen	33401	FL	Legal Aid Soc. of Palm Beach Co.	I can see how impossible it is for frail, poor, elderly to live without a telephone. It improves their quality of life when they are able to get a telephone.	4/23/13 13:55
Ricky	Fodor	32140	FL		Because I am on it all these many year's and now a problem fix it so we don't loose this as well	4/23/13 13:56
John	Cornette	98516	WA		This only serves to hurt those least able to fend for themselves.	4/23/13 13:56
Vanessa	Porter	90291	CA	St. Joseph Family Center		4/23/13 13:57
zechariah	duffy	43119	OH		know many people in need	4/23/13 13:57
Stan	Arledge	92647	CA			4/23/13 13:57
Carroll	Towner	93274	CA		Seniors need all the help they can get in this economy. A telephone is a necessity and without lifeline can easily be unaffordable	4/23/13 13:58
Tim	CELASUN	92831			I do not feel it is a luxury. someone's life might depend on it. It is time for people we send to Washington to give up some of their perks to fund useful projects and we should be voting accordingly to keep them there or call them back home!	4/23/13 13:58
Diana	Rezac	50314				4/23/13 13:58
Ralph	Chianelli	06905	CT		For those who live under dangerous conditions should have a way of getting help.	4/23/13 14:00
Josephine	Henriksen	54927	WI		It definitely helps seniors in a matter of life & death.	4/23/13 14:01
Candice	Lowery	10553				4/23/13 14:02
Mark	Seveland	89429	NV			4/23/13 14:02
James	Kleinrath DDS	94070	CA			4/23/13 14:03
Fred	Schwacke	05340	VT		Our nation was built from the bottom up, not the rich downward. Lifeline is a must for many American's, a large percentage of which are in dire straights due to the predators at the top.	4/23/13 14:03
Dr. Alfred	Conger Thompson	20850	MD	City of Rockville Community Services	It is helpful to the helpless and consumers who are at risk and cannot fully provide for themselves.	4/23/13 14:03
John	East	95422	CA			4/23/13 14:04

Lucina	Herrera	95358	CA		Because it's a critical "life line" for those with very low incomes to have an affordable method of communication with their doctors, therapists, family and friends.	4/23/13 14:05
Mr. & Mrs. Dustin	Arnold	75497	TX		The Us Gov does not have any business doing this sort of thing	4/23/13 14:07
Carolyn	Harrison	33315			The Lifeline program for many is their only link with the outside world; for doctors, children, emergencies. Land lines are now unaffordable, cell phone companies require contracts in many cases, expensive phones or deposits -- precluding many seniors and low income parents from having any phones at all. It is an essential program also for those looking for work. Without a job, many cannot afford a phone for employers to reach them	4/23/13 14:08
Aubrey	Ball	76133	TX		It needs to continue for those who really need it. senior citizens and people disabled who live alone.	4/23/13 14:08
Robert	Soule	29844	SC		I think it is a big rip off, I don't care who is paying for it. I recently over heard a conversation between two of our nations finest, they were bragging about how many "FREE" cell phones they had and they were all in operation. No control on these "Free" programs, they stink and should be discontinued immediately.	4/23/13 14:11
Steven	Cinnamon	97216	OR		I have needed the help myself. Without a phone I could not contact anyone. Including my Dr. Pay phones are very difficult to find, especially one that works. Thank you life line.	4/23/13 14:11
Regina	Hamilton	94578				4/23/13 14:12
MYLLETTE	PUCKETT	30349	GA		I AM A DISABLED INDIVIDUAL WITH LOW INCOME	4/23/13 14:13
Shaya	Rodriguez	85501	AZ		It helps the low income.	4/23/13 14:13
Martha	Calleres	93654	CA		I have my father and other family members who has benifited from this program.	4/23/13 14:13
Paul	Findeis	12585	NY		Staying connected is essential for anyone and we should support this program	4/23/13 14:14

Joy	Rex	78613				4/23/13 14:14
Joel	Worthman	11230	NY		Poor people need phones	4/23/13 14:14
wade	curtis	53511	WI		Loss of employment this is a basic need in these times!	4/23/13 14:14
julie	noble	40206	KY		for safety reasons!!	4/23/13 14:15
Jeanette	Kolodziejczak	48446	MI			4/23/13 14:15
Joan	Williams-Jarrell	10035	NY			4/23/13 14:15
Robert	Last	54901	WI		I am disabled with a very low income. I need this program very much!	4/23/13 14:16
Ben	Lau	60616	IL	Chinese American Service League	The program does Help!	4/23/13 14:17
Juliana	Adams	77338	TX		It helps those with low income stay in communication with family.	4/23/13 14:17
James	Cava naugh	83864	ID		Poor people need this help	4/23/13 14:18
Ofelia	Aranda	90621	CA	Casa Santa Maria, Catholic Charities	I work with low-income elderly who are on this program and has given them a sense of security knowing that they can call their families during an emergency.	4/23/13 14:18
Dennis	Payne	62863	IL		With Phone providers not keeping landline cabling in useable shape in remote areas like ours. It is important that this program allow the low income people a phone line they can depend on for safety and staying in touch with their familes and community. Please keep this program in operation as phone service subscribers like myself pay the cost anyway. Thank You. Sincerely, Dennis Payne	4/23/13 14:18
Nancy	Borntreger	17603	PA		My husband and I don't bring in much money. We are on fixed incomes and everything keeps on going up.	4/23/13 14:18
Ken & Barbara	Smith	98661	WA		Because of the exorbitant cost of telephones (landline or cellphone) - People who are lookiing for jobs can't afford to have one!	4/23/13 14:19
Kim	Edmonds	23223	VA			4/23/13 14:20
John	McKeon	92024	CA		This program allows low income individuals essential access to services that they normally wouldn't have access to.	4/23/13 14:22

Geraldine	Guardado	46408	IN		I support the Lifeline program because I myself struggle to survive on a limited low income. In todays world, a phone is a must-have for most people to keep in contact with family, friends, business, ect. Not all are fortunate enough to have a computer and internet access.	4/23/13 14:22
Donee	Wyke	04843				4/23/13 14:22
Wayne	Oxford	22731	VA		I do not believe low income people are any less valueable than people who can afford a phone.	4/23/13 14:22
Claudia	Chuba	85365	AZ		To support our low income elderly. I may need this service at some point.	4/23/13 14:23
Samuel	Karanja	98030	WA		Simply to keep it serving as it has for all those years.	4/23/13 14:23
Joe	Greenwalt	43542				4/23/13 14:24
EUGENE	SULLIVAN	32195	FL		IT IS A NECESSARY PROGRAM AND NOT A WASTE OF MONEY.	4/23/13 14:24
Linda	Pichler	33579	FL		I work with very low income individuals and families. This phone service is truly a life line to reach out for potential job appointments, Dr. appointments, request for help. The program needs to be monitored to ensure only those low income persons receive the service but it is critical for them.	4/23/13 14:24
Toynette	Palmer	19602	PA		Everyone should have some means to access emergency personel and close contact to friends and family members.	4/23/13 14:24
Theresa	Giannotta	93635	CA		because I'm interested in using it.	4/23/13 14:26
ANTHONY	LEWIS	31208	GA			4/23/13 14:31
Thomas	Tuttle	53704			WHY NOT! The crooked individuals will divert the unused USF tax elsewhere and we won't have any say....AGAIN!!!	4/23/13 14:31
Judy	Cook	65613	MO			4/23/13 14:32
charia	jackson	38127	TN		The program helps families who need the help	4/23/13 14:33

Lorraine	East	33707	FL		My mother in law lives on 6800.00 per YEAR! To cut services like this is a true hardship not only for her but for ALL seniors. I would rather see our active AND retired elected officials cut their incomes by 5%. You can afford it-consider it your tithe if you must.	4/23/13 14:33
Ginny	Ade	53933	WI		There are so many people who can't keep up with the bills they have now. Why take away their lifeline to emergency, family, etc. What if it were you?	4/23/13 14:34
MARTIN	LIMON	60181	IL		I SUPPORT IT BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY AMERICANS THAT NEED THIS PROGRAM.	4/23/13 14:34
Jane	Webber	48442	MI		I use it	4/23/13 14:34
Paul	Brown	34996	FL			4/23/13 14:35
Henrietta	Li	60616	IL		keeps low-income individuals connected to job opportunities.	4/23/13 14:36
George	Wiegand	21613	MD			4/23/13 14:36
PAUL	VANDEMARK	46514	IN		ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR LOW OR NO INCOME, THE ELDERLY, & DISABLED.	4/23/13 14:37
George	Wiegand	21613	MD			4/23/13 14:37
Otto	Beindorf	43512	OH			4/23/13 14:37
Laurie	Miller	11716	NY			4/23/13 14:38
Khalid	Jadari	57717	SD		Because I am student who Has 2 kids and can not be able to pay for expensive Verizon and At&t bill	4/23/13 14:39
Donald	Wyatt	76114	TX		Because it is a help to low income people. They need this help.	4/23/13 14:39
Tyise	Blount	19119			This program is essential for persons without the means to get a phone on their own. It provides a basic connection to the outside world.	4/23/13 14:40
Aster	Truesdale	29718	SC		Because of disabled persons--and those with incomes at the poverty levels, etc.	4/23/13 14:40

Lorraine	Norton	48150	MI		In home phones are often too costly, public phones are too limited, the only way for many families to get help or contacts is by phone. It is a connection to services, to people, to emergency care and to jobs. Phones are a necessity, not a luxury. While there are many options, most are cost prohibitive. We need to provide basic necessities for families, mothers, veterans, and low income people.	4/23/13 14:40
RACHEL	CHEN	60616	IL	Chinese American Service League		4/23/13 14:42
ursula	gilmore	13041	NY		Lifeline provides seniors, veterans and other low income individuals with a vital a connection to emergency services via 911, job opportunities,etc.and costs the taxpayers nothing.	4/23/13 14:43
Nancy	Hummel	78734	TX			4/23/13 14:44
Carole	Berke	20815	MD			4/23/13 14:45
S	Welch	44052	OH			4/23/13 14:46
Michael	Gross	46506	IN		I happen to participate in it and believe helps a lot people who do indeed need help. However as with most programs of this nature there is probably a great deal of abuse and additionally I believe that there are great number of people who are eligible for this and are not participating. The life line program does a great deal of good, we just need to be able to keep those who don't belong in the program out along with those who abuse the program.	4/23/13 14:46
Orchid	Hubanks	93274	CA		It gives seniors, persons on a fixed income and low-income families accessibility to services. I'ts vital that all persons, especially the more vulnerable, have a voice and be included in areas that impact their lives.	4/23/13 14:46
maria	rosales	95350			its equal access to services for low income families.	4/23/13 14:48

Kimberly	Bolin	85117	AZ	Community Alliance Against Family Abuse	It allows women in domestic violence situations to be able to come into shelter and have access to a phone to be able to contact 911 in necessary times and to also have to ability to receive calls when searching for jobs.	4/23/13 14:49
Ardis	Shubin	90501	CA	H.E.L.P.	I work with seniors every day and as a former social worker know first hand how critical this service is to our seniors and disabled. These seniors have worked long and hard during their lives and are responsible upstanding citizens who have more than paid their dues to this country. They deserve some assistance in their later years to lift the heavy burden of a increasingly financially demanding economy which they cannot control. Please do not penalize those who can not defend against attack.	4/23/13 14:50
Jim	Ruble	26150	WV			4/23/13 14:50
ROchelle	Twining	45801	OH		It provides critical access to health care, jobs and other resources. Unlike comme4rcial phones it does not Require contract which locks people into plans they may someday not be able to afford.	4/23/13 14:50
Vern	Maresh	87108	NM			4/23/13 14:51
Linda	Halderman	34231			This program is not funded by tax dollars and serves the poor and needy with basic phone service.	4/23/13 14:51
Bill	Zemanek	94954	CA			4/23/13 14:51
Ming	Chang	94108	CA	Donaldina Cameron House	families need to stay contact with everything. No communication = no life!	4/23/13 14:53
michael	blazevich	15120	PA		please dont turn off these important phones forpoor people whom need them to possibly save their own life or somebody elses....	4/23/13 14:53
Lorraine	Smith	15102	PA		Our elderly relative lives alone and is living on social security. This was the only option for her to have.	4/23/13 14:54

kathleen	hussey	07035	NJ		My sister is on disability and it enables her to call doctors and transportation and help when her blood sugar falls	4/23/13 14:57
loretta	offord	49504	MI		I live in a low incomehouseing complex for seniors and many of us use this type of phone.	4/23/13 14:57
Sonya	Foster	35405				4/23/13 14:58
Patrick	Williamson	63648	MO		We need it for the help it does	4/23/13 15:01
art	davis	77086			Is not taxpayer funded and gives support to those in need.	4/23/13 15:01
kathy	lapish	28689			its a GOOD thing	4/23/13 15:02
Glenda	Lang	28139	NC		Because it is needed. Simple! My mother needed it before it existed in our area.	4/23/13 15:02
Glenda	Lang	28139	NC		Because it is needed. Simple! My mother needed it before it existed in our area.	4/23/13 15:02
Jolene	Gardner	60604	IL			4/23/13 15:02
Kathleen	Cott-Johnson	43537	OH		It helps low-income Americans who need a way to be connected!	4/23/13 15:03
Kathy	Eanes	33610	FL		Because it's needed!!!	4/23/13 15:07
Sheronda	Watson	38305			Those with low-income have needs for cell phones just like you and your family members do.	4/23/13 15:09
Todd	Nelson	98103	WA			4/23/13 15:10
Merle	Hofmann	62301	IL			4/23/13 15:11
Scott	Stapf	22209	VA	The Hastings Group	More people connected to opportunities means more people who have a chance at the American Dream. This is a real helping hand situation -- not a handout!	4/23/13 15:11
Wendy	Mays	56068			The Lifeline Credit was graciously given to my parents due to their income, basically living on Social Security and a few pensions. It certainly helped them out and for that we are much appreciative. Thank you!!	4/23/13 15:13
daniel	better	90034	CA			4/23/13 15:13
Ray	Bupp	29414	SC		We ARE our brothers keeper.	4/23/13 15:15
Jim	Fattoruso	12414	NY		To support service to those who could not otherwise afford it.	4/23/13 15:15

Laura	Richarda	49442			Because there are so many low income families and seniors that depend on the all the help that they can get from different places to help them with what they need. There are so many low income family and seniors that cant afford cell phone and with the program that is out there now it can allow those people to.get cell phones so they can stay in touch with there loved ones.	4/23/13 15:17
Laura	Brainin-Rodriguez	94530	CA		It allows low income individuals to have access to the way we increasingly use to communicate with each other.	4/23/13 15:17
Teresa	TEllez Giron	53719	WI		Because it helps victims of crime and DV and it helps us keep our community safe.	4/23/13 15:18
Michael	Coleman	60018			This program supports those in need that are unable to afford a cell phone intoday's cell phone world. Are you aware that there are no longer public telephones at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago?	4/23/13 15:20
Brent	Granberg	04955	ME		With all the taxes congress has screwed us with, and b/s grants and other subsidies. Why shouldn't they keep this?	4/23/13 15:21
kam	hunt	33467	FL		because we do not need to subsidize with tax money !	4/23/13 15:22
Carol	Josephs	36502	AL		A lot of people need Lifeline program, so it is important that they do not cut this program. It will put a lot of people in jeopardy of not being able to communicate with others when they are in need of help.	4/23/13 15:25
michael	pellegrino	18428	PA		without a phone how are people going to communicate during a 911 emergency? a phone has become a basic tool for survival. Cutting this basic need would make us a third world country.	4/23/13 15:25
Martin	Hoelcle	14218			My parents used Lifeline for many years and it helped them get by since they were living only on social security.	4/23/13 15:25

west	smith	93024	CA		because it is part of our democracy and people who want it cut do not believe in democracy and should leave the United States emmiately.	4/23/13 15:26
Henry	Leno	02151			Someday I may need it.	4/23/13 15:26
Valsa	Alexander	20866	MD			4/23/13 15:28
pamela	morris	60617	IL			4/23/13 15:28
John	Zupansic	55808				4/23/13 15:29
Angela	Singletary	30030	GA		Telecommunications access is a life or death issue. Americans need the ability to call for help, even the Americans who can not afford phone service. In our current economy, many Americans have found themselves in this position through no fault of their own.	4/23/13 15:30
lori	hoppe	54901	WI		bec you are the road and u have flat tire and its dark it can be scary out there now a days. or car breaks down if you have no way of commnication your in the the dark it scary now a days	4/23/13 15:30
Barbara	Cooper	43221	OH		I work with Senior Citizens and this program is needed to help them live within the means of their budget!	4/23/13 15:30
Tina M.	Fuller	04736	ME		It helps keep the elderly, the disabled independent as long aas possible and people inwhich have no other way of comunication not to mention not being able to call the fire or police dept.	4/23/13 15:30
lee	russ	05201				4/23/13 15:32
Robert	Hix	80528	CO		Ease of access	4/23/13 15:32
travis	Barker	04330	ME		It is a very important service for low income people.	4/23/13 15:34
Lourdes	Best	94303			It's important that low-income folks have access to a phone. It crucial to stay in contact with your place of employment and children school. Sometime families are forced to go with out food in order to keep services connected like the phone and internet. In these days and times it's important to have a phone.	4/23/13 15:34

CHRISTINE	MCHUGH	46220	IN		THIS PROGRAM GIVES LOW INCOME PEOPLE A WAY TO STAY COMMUNICATE AND RECEIVE INFO FROM SCHOOLS AND FAMILY, AND A WAY TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY HELP. AS TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS, WE ARE PAYING FOR THIS SERVICE ON OUR TELEPHONE BILL.	4/23/13 15:35
Clayton	Stapleton	78704	TX		Many low income families need this one phone to get job interviews and to get emergency services.	4/23/13 15:35
Cynthia	Kooi	49024			I am disabled and am a senior citizen. Lifeline helps me to stay connected and stay within my very limited budget. Without it, I would probably not be able to have the access I now have. Please do not hurt the vulnerable.	4/23/13 15:35
Michael G	Hazelett	80214	CO			4/23/13 15:36
Lois	Corrin	94611	CA		I am supported by land line life line program. It is so important. I would like to have wireless support as well.	4/23/13 15:37
Angela	Zarbano	78148	TX			4/23/13 15:39
Victoria	Nance	99202	WA		This is a life line for the low income. Don't make life any harder for them then it is. Remember they have a voice and a vote also.	4/23/13 15:41
Andrew	Liebing	53701	WI		As a Priest and Psychologist who deals with varied groups of age,background and income. This is one government program that many of my clients would not have ANY phone link to the outside world. Seniors are a specific group that could increase health/safety issues during a health/safety/security event.	4/23/13 15:43
Joseph	Ricci	80904	CO			4/23/13 15:44
Traci	Ross	44707	OH	Out Of Poverty Partnership, Inc. (Stark County)	I work in the public school system and have seen the importance of the program to parents.	4/23/13 15:45
Adam	Geer	43953	OH		Because too much is begin taken away.	4/23/13 15:45
Albert	Elliot	92548	CA		As a low-income subscriber, lifeline makes phone service affordable to me.	4/23/13 15:46

Carlene	Sands	43078	OH	Stepping Stones Outreach Ministries	I support the Lifeline Wireless program because it is a way that people can have a phone in order to be reached for job interviews or just basic communication needs and can help them put their limited funds toward rent or other necessities. I have dealt with many people who have benefited from this service and would be greatly impacted by losing this benefit. The economy is not healthy enough for people to earn a living wage, and the Lifeline program is still needed.	4/23/13 15:48
Betty	Prince	23847	VA		my mother had one and it helped her several times and I am getting to the place I will need one in the future. They are great when you need assistance and you are alone.	4/23/13 15:51
Donna	Flood	11702	NY			4/23/13 15:51
EMIKO	Hartley	60628	IL		It's a great program for people who r looking for work, and that need the help and can't afford it. Also for the elderly who may need to call the police or an ambulance.	4/23/13 15:52
ROBIN	PAIGE	34744	FL		i keep in touch with my disabled husband and if i need to call 911 and such or the doctors office and such	4/23/13 15:52
David	Baldwin	37809	TN		Let your elected representatives know that you strongly oppose any cuts to Lifeline. Sign our petition to protect low-income Lifeline telephone subsidies: - Curbing Wireless Lifeline will harm families, seniors, veterans, minorities and other key groups of low-income Americans. - Wireless lifeline delivers important benefits to low-income families, including helping people find work, stay connected to schools and seek help in an emergency. - Efforts already are ongoing by the Federal Communications Commission to curb fraud and make wireless Lifeline more efficient. - The Lifeline program is not taxpayer funded but paid for by assessments on telecommunications carriers.	4/23/13 15:54

Ronald	Patten	01842	MA			4/23/13 15:56
Hamilton	Steve	61103	IL		I support the wireless program because it helps people without the money to have a phone stay in touch with things like 911, police, etc.	4/23/13 15:56
Joseph	Geissinger	90631	CA		emergencies occur unexpectedly	4/23/13 15:56
Don	Mitchell	92807	CA		It allows low income people a way to stay connected when they might not otherwise be able. This seems like a no brainer.	4/23/13 15:56
Frank	Stamski	12721	NY		Seniors, veterans and low income people need to be connected to work, schools and 911.	4/23/13 15:56
ramon	lazo	94014	CA		Land line phones are no longer viable. It is only natural that phone technology moves to handheld devices from now on (cheaper, better technology, less maintenance). This program simply addresses the latest version of lifeline service (which has been around for a very long time). Some politicians apparently have seen fit to use it for political purposes ('Obama phones). This is a sham and will cut down a very popular and practical program that many people (including members of my own family) use and need as a basic means of phone communications. For this reason, I support the Wireless Lifeline proram.	4/23/13 15:58
Joann	Noll	19021				4/23/13 15:58
Jan	Nelson	02601	MA	Housing Assistance Corporation	All of my clients are low-income and most cannot afford a telephone. The Wireless Lifeline program is what they need to communicate with agencies, doctors, etc. Don't cut this program. Thank you.	4/23/13 16:00
Thaddeus	Proshansky	34983	FL		Because all utilities are way to expensive.	4/23/13 16:01
Thaddeus	Proshansky	34983	FL			4/23/13 16:03
Donald	Kepka	27253	NC		so many people have just a small amount of money to buy food and housing.	4/23/13 16:03
Kenneth	Chase	85364				4/23/13 16:03
Martha	Robles	95360	CA		A recipient of it in the household, very helpful	4/23/13 16:06
Joshua	Parish	53805	WI			4/23/13 16:06
Barbara	Davila	19111	PA		It can help save a life.	4/23/13 16:07

Thaddeus	Proshansky	34983	FL			4/23/13 16:08
OLIVIA	CARRILLO	95354	CA		ECONOMICALLY I AM LOW INCOME I AM THE SOLE PROVIDER WITH A FAMILY OF 4 AND I CAN BEARLY PAY MY RENT. LET ALONE PAYING UTILITY BILLS.	4/23/13 16:08
Robert	Puls	55350	MN		12500 I am a current user who needs this for my communication to my doctors, financial aid worker and emergencies. I just recently had an emergency and needed E.R. services. Please don't cut this vital service.	4/23/13 16:09
linda	jeffers	62056	IL		because poor people cant afford any other service	4/23/13 16:10
Michael	Smith	71291	LA			4/23/13 16:10
Jeff and Karen	Hay	95073	CA			4/23/13 16:10
raymond	frenzel	21521			with out it a lot wont have phone service. on fixed income wont be able to oford it	4/23/13 16:11
raymond	frenzel	21521				4/23/13 16:11
Larry	Sutton	65803	MO		Veterans, Don't you!	4/23/13 16:14
William	Richardson	03079	NH			4/23/13 16:14
Debbie	Childers	74365	OK		So many people need this service for their every day life requirements.	4/23/13 16:16
Erroll	Lewis	70131	LA			4/23/13 16:16
Carmen	Novellas	29205				4/23/13 16:18
Phyllis	Meeks	43068	OH		to help the poor	4/23/13 16:20
Linda	McClain	35016	AL		I have family that needs this program.	4/23/13 16:23
Danielle	Doged	21078				4/23/13 16:24
M	Worthington	54954	WI		Everyone needs a phone in this modern day. You can't get or keep a job without a phone. You can't see a doctor without a phone.	4/23/13 16:24
Gary	Piotrowski	18505	PA		I need it,as well as several other people I know	4/23/13 16:26
Betty	Kossik	54302	WI			4/23/13 16:27
Betty	Kossik	54302	WI			4/23/13 16:27
charles	roberson	65535	MO		A lot of people can barely pay for meds and can not afford a phone .	4/23/13 16:28
Jackie	Ennenbach	53711	WI		Everyone, especially the most vurnerable, needs a way to contact someone in an emergency.	4/23/13 16:28

Dianne	Lorber	97504	OR		There is NO logical reason that is should be discontinued.	4/23/13 16:29
Bob	scott	45244	OH		because most phone service is too expensive...and poor people need phones...	4/23/13 16:29
Richard	Merritt	44118	OH		It is helping me stay connected to the regular world and I use it as my contact number on job apps and my resume.	4/23/13 16:29
Thandi Zulu	Alexander	39532	MS		People needs it as without a phone life is hard	4/23/13 16:29
Thandi Zulu	Alexander	39532	MS		people need the help for phone	4/23/13 16:31
Daniel	Shields	87196				4/23/13 16:33
sharon	gropp	16127	PA		Because my mom is low-income and it helps her..	4/23/13 16:33
Glenda	Lovell	45255	OH		I know individuals who rely on this program.	4/23/13 16:35
David	Faverty	20879	MD		This is a very helpful program to many low income people	4/23/13 16:36
Steve	Birchall	53716	WI		You must have a phone to look for a job. It's a required tool in today's world. It's also necessary for parents who want to work with schools and teachers to help their children succeed.	4/23/13 16:37
Loretta	Smith	05089	VT		There are so many people who depend upon this life saver and I am one of them	4/23/13 16:37
Judy	Johnson	61571	IL			4/23/13 16:43
Linda	Rushoe	17801	PA			4/23/13 16:43
Ronald	Sohn	48601				4/23/13 16:44
Tammy	Lau	60616	IL		I support the low-income Wireless Lifeline program for seniors.	4/23/13 16:45
Louis	Brown	39666	MS		i am low-income	4/23/13 16:46



April 24, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: Lifeline Recipient Stories About the Importance of the Lifeline Program

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

I am the New Initiatives Director for Springwire, a national non-profit organization that provides free voicemail and information services to more than 50,000 low-income or homeless individuals in 40 U.S. cities. On behalf of the 1,400 social service agencies in our network, I am writing to show my strong support for the Lifeline program as a vital, effective tool in our national fight against poverty.

Basic phone service is a necessity for people living in poverty – you need a phone to find a job, access social services, health care and emergency services, and to maintain a connection with family members and others who can help. Without Lifeline, a large number of people who need phone service will go without it, and their chances for employment, housing and stability will be significantly diminished. A Lifeline phone is a cost-effective way for people to become *more* self-reliant, and *less* reliant on the social safety net. I urge the Subcommittee to support Lifeline as an important tool for fighting poverty.

Attached are transcripts of voice messages received from low-income or homeless citizens who use Lifeline phones, and want Congress to understand how valuable the program is to them in their efforts to rise out of poverty. These respondents are clients of our organization, from Houston, Tulsa, Seattle and Portland (Oregon); each was sent a voice message on April 23 informing them of the subcommittee meeting regarding Lifeline, and asked to respond with stories about how Lifeline has been valuable to them. While the transcripts are compelling, the voices are even more powerful.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your support for effective tools like Lifeline.

Sincerely,

Steve Albertson
Springwire New Initiatives Director
stevea@springwire.us / 206-441-4239

Facilitating Self-Sufficiency

I have a son that serves in the U.S. army and he's been in for about 2 years. Without this phone service there is no way I would be able to correspond with him in any way because I have no landline service. My son depends on that communication and I depend on it from him to check on his well-being. Even a second young man that is in his barrack is another one of my "sons." We started to communicate together by phone when I speak to my son he chimes in and goes, "Hi mom!" and I go, "Hi son!" so now I have two sons in that are in the service and it is so important as they serve the nation and us that we communicate with them and support them.

It also has helped me go in to the resource bank at the 2-1-1 line and request services to stay in my home. I've rented a home for almost two years. It has helped me to communicate the housing authority in my local area, it has helped me to request emergency information for a 3 day pay or vacate that was a mistake but they allowed me to get the assistance because the agency made a mistake. I was charged for it and there was no way for me to pay that in arrears based on that mistake and the agency helped me. Just all types of things. When you find out that these services are going to be restricted or cut off it makes all things come to the surface. I couldn't expound any more on how helpful this is.

It is so helpful to me. I am a person with a disability. I depend on the Lifeline phone service to contact my care provider and my care provider agency and to get to my doctors' appointments. This is the only phone I have and without it I would basically be shut in. I depend on it for everything everyone else would use their cell phone for. I have to contact my family in case emergency, to contact them to see how they are faring, to keep in communication with my grandchildren, so it is very effective. It is a 9-1-1 service if I need it. It is a crucial service that should stay in the community for those that don't have home phones. I don't know how I would stress that any more but please keep this service available to people in my situation or many others. Any time that I don't have enough food I can call to find out times and locations for local food banks.

Please don't take the service. Thank you.

– Gerri, Seattle

I did use [my Lifeline phone] to get housing. I was homeless. I needed to make phone calls every day and could not afford to because I did not have a job. Then I used it to get a job. My employer calls me on this phone to for my work schedule. It's invaluable to me and has been for work and for housing, to receiving changes with my doctors as far as appointments. I couldn't do without it. I'm very thankful for it. I hope it continues. Thank you.

– Stacy, Seattle

I don't know what I would do without the Lifeline service. I would be almost completely cut off from employers, potential employers, and news about my community. It's hard enough living on little or no income without such basic service as a phone to be able to call 911 if you need help, or to get in touch with community resources or to find a job. There is no way on this earth that the use of Lifeline should be restricted other than just having one Lifeline phone. I don't have any problem with that. But as far as cutting people off from this service, it would make an almost untenable situation impossible. That's what it will do. Those will be the consequences if that is done. Thank you.

- Brandon, Tulsa

I just wanted to inform that Lifeline has helped a lot. It helped me get jobs, help me stay in touch with family members and whatever have you. It's been a really great help and I appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

– Clinton, Seattle

Lifeline has helped me a whole lot finding employment, locating housing, just general staying in touch with doctors, providers, job counselors. It's a great program. I feel you all need to expend this program. Thank you very much.

– Carl, Houston

The Lifeline cell phone that I have has helped me with job searching. I've gone on many interviews because of it cause I have no other way of leaving a number for them to leave me a message about an interview. I haven't got any luck yet, but I'm positive that I will. Thank you.

– Paula, Houston

I have a Lifeline cell phone. It comes in handy for jobs, housing, and emergencies. I think it's very highly important that we can save the Lifeline for the land or cell phone especially when people can't get a hold of you for a job, or housing. It's very, very important. It makes a difference to have a Lifeline. I strongly hope that we can save this and I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

– Tracy, Seattle

It is important that I keep the Lifeline phone because I am homeless right now with my son and it helps my family keep in touch with me, and also for the Housing Connect [program] to get ahold of me at that number. That's why Lifeline is important to me, and I need to keep it for those reasons. Given that I'm homeless and it's the only number I can give to apartments to get ahold of me. I would appreciate it if you could keep the Lifeline going like it is. It means a lot to me. Thank you.

- Stephanie, Seattle

I have Assurance Wireless. I use it for job search and for...everything, you know, food stamps, if anyone needs to contact me I always give them that number, mainly for employers to contact me. Basically that's what I use it for, to try to work towards independence, and gain work and everything by working with agencies I give them that number too. Anyone that needs to reach me. And for emergencies...it's good for emergencies too. Thank you.

- Shirelle, Portland

I have truly appreciated my Lifeline phone. It's an Assurance phone....through the Lifeline phone I do have a job now and it's a number where people can reach me. Texting is a really wonderful benefit where we can write and be quiet at the same time if we're in a meeting or something. I really truly appreciate my Assurance phone and have used it. It would really be a huge change in many people's lives if they did not have it. In mine personally I still use it everyday.

- Janice, Seattle

I'm a senior citizen, very low income, and I would not be able to afford a cell phone or any type of place to receive voice mail messages. So I rely very much on Community Voice Mail and the Lifeline phone service. I would not be able to afford any type of phone whatsoever, so I'd appreciate being able to continue to use the Lifeline cell phone. Thank you.

- Shirley, Seattle

Access to Emergency Services and Protection of Health and Safety

I am a customer of the Lifeline service which has turned out to be invaluable to me. I am a disabled vet with MS and frequently have medical issues and need frequent contact with the VA hospital, crisis hotlines, and so forth. I'm on Social Security disability and the Lifeline CAPS program allows me to stay connected to the world because of my disability I can't actually physically get out in the world all that often without extensive preparation. So, Congress, keep the Lifeline program in operation. Find the money. I know you can do it. Thank you.

- John, Seattle

I live in an adult center where several of the women who are disabled have Lifeline landline services, and it has been on more than one occasion life-saving for them to have this. They're on very small fixed-incomes, and the Lifeline service (especially with the landline) has been invaluable. I hope that it will be recognized as a valuable service.

- Patricia, Tulsa

My Lifeline phone has helped me greatly. I'm on disability for depression and suicidal thoughts. And people call on my and check on me and encourage me. I wouldn't be able to afford a regular phone. It wouldn't be possible. I appreciate my lifeline phone.

- Rich, Tulsa

Lifeline services have helped me by providing me with a phone to call police for help when my boyfriend was beating the [----] out of me. If I wouldn't have had that phone I would probably be dead. Thank you.

- Christy, Seattle

Since having a phone I've been able to make calls for doctor appointments, schedule rides to my appointments. I can have other people can contact me. Be able to make 9-1-1 calls. I've had to make 911 calls at least 6 times to get to the ER which is detrimental to my health. Also, Lifeline has been able to help me communicate with family who is outside the state. As far as making calls for service to nonprofits for assistances throughout the month. Without Lifeline all the necessary things I need to do for everyday living would not be easier without it. I know my story is one of many who definitely need Lifeline. Thank you.

- Kimbal, Seattle

I use the Lifeline service and I couldn't access my medical care without it at all. I need it in order to contact my doctors' offices, and to order prescriptions I need the Lifeline service. I have also called 211 for other kinds of social services but the most important is the medical service. This is a service that without which myself or others could run in to problems without access to medical care through the Lifeline service. Thank you very much.

– Gretchen, Seattle

I just think the cell phone program is real good because it helps people be able to make phone calls during emergencies. I just want to make sure you understand that a lot of people who can't afford it have that opportunity with these programs. I support it. I think that people who have cell phones today possibly would not have had a cell phone if it wasn't for this program because the economy and finances and money and things like that, people are just pinched to the limit with how much they can spend and how much is available for them. When Congress passes programs that can put something in your hand like a cell phone or something a lot of people would need it's like a good thing so why stop providing it?

– Marion, Houston

I have a Community Voice Mail and a Lifeline cell phone...Budget Mobile I believe. I need that phone, very much so, because I have a chronic medical condition – to check with my doctors and my pharmacist. I need to contact them always regarding my medical condition. And also my housing – which is Section 8 – I need to stay in contact with the Housing Authority. So please don't cut anything from my Lifeline services. It's a life saver, and I appreciate Congress bearing with me in the understanding. Thank you so much.

- Victor, Seattle

I don't know what I would do without Lifeline because it has helped me with doctor appointments and all the important information. And I need my free voice mail because I'm a victim of domestic violence and I can't give out a phone number. I need a voice mail that's non-traceable, and I'm dead without that. I really hope they don't take that away...it would be really hard without my cell phone. Oh my gosh, I just hope that they don't take it away. Thank you. Bye.

- Nicole, Seattle

Hi, my name's Mike. I'm leaving a message because I don't want to see cutbacks on the phone Lifeline because I use it quite a bit for different things like in case of emergency if I need help. If I need to call my doctors to make appointments. Stay in touch with my family, like my grandkids. And to check on other programs out there like United Way and Solid Ground, and welfare and social security.

- Mike, Seattle

Since I got this [Lifeline phone] it has saved my life, from emergency, from going to the hospital, making my appointments, receiving my appointments, my scheduling, and I really, really love the service and really appreciate whatever the community is doing for us. Without this I'm nobody. And I'm in the job market, so it's my lifeline. Whether it's hospitals, clinics, job line, emergencies, doctor appointments, anything...it helps. And I would really be disappointed if they eliminate or limit my access to these services. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

- Mike, Houston

I have Assurance Wireless, which really comes in handy because I'm on disability and I really can't afford a regular cell phone service. It has helped me a lot, especially if I have an emergency out on the road or if I'm out at night especially and something comes up. So I'm sure it helps a lot of the homeless people because I used to be homeless too. It's really necessary in this day and age to have a cell phone, especially for homeless people. Because I used to be homeless too, and it was the only way that employers could contact you, and family and friends...it's very, very important that they don't do away with these programs - Assurance and others, Safelink is in this state as well – it would just be a crying shame if they did away with this. Not necessarily for people like me that are off the streets, but it would be too expensive for me to get another phone and cell service...but especially for homeless people, because I've been there and I knew what it felt like not to have a phone and have to go into places, go into hospitals, borrow the phone everywhere we could...it was very very difficult.

- Sherri, Houston



New Jersey SHARES, Inc.
1901 North Olden Avenue Extension
Suite 1A
Ewing, NJ 08618
www.njshares.org
609.883.1626

April 22, 2013

Chairman, Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: The Importance of Lifeline Phones to low-income residents in New Jersey

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

New Jersey SHARES, Inc. (NJS) is a statewide non-profit corporation primarily providing assistance to individuals and families in need of help meeting their energy and utility burden. Through assistance, advocacy, community outreach, education, information and referral, we connect low and moderate income households with available resources.

We receive more than 150,000 inquiries a year regarding Communications Lifeline in NJ. Our partnership with Verizon NJ provides a unique, comprehensive and compassionate solution for Verizon low-income customers eligible for Communications Lifeline. NJS provides community outreach and enrollment services as well as providing direct services utilizing our Client Service Center staff.

The NJS Lifeline Outreach program as well as the Communications Lifeline Client Service Center provides:

- A national model for a client focused Communications Lifeline program
- A single point of contact for handling all inquiries regarding the Lifeline program
- Outreach to community based organizations and low-income households statewide
- Participation in events targeting eligible households or service providers
- Lifeline applications available within our network of 325 NJS intake sites and available on the web at www.njshares.org
- Tracking of all client contacts regarding Lifeline
- Targeted outreach to eligible households not receiving Lifeline

- Annual recertification services
- Pro-active contact of senior households to offer program information and application solutions
- Program information and referral to other low-income programs available in NJ provided by NJS staff

Testimonials:

“Without the Communications Lifeline discount I would not be able to afford a phone. What would I do if I was cut off from communicating with my friends and family in an emergency?” - **Edward Deanley, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ**

I have a caregiver who checks in with me by phone twice daily. The phone truly is my lifeline. - **Loretta Schill, Edison, NJ**

“I’m blind and I suffer from severe Asthma. If I didn’t have a phone, I couldn’t call 911 or my doctor. I am so grateful for the Communications Lifeline discount.” - **Patricia James, Garfield, NJ**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M. Jacob". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James M. Jacob
President & CEO

April 24, 2013

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waldman and Ranking Member Eshoo,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing older Americans, veterans, civil rights communities, minorities, low-income Americans, people with disabilities, and consumers, we are writing to express our strong support for the Universal Service Fund's (USF) wireless Lifeline program and to set the record straight.

Wireless Lifeline is not a handout, it is a hand up. It is in our society's best interest to empower our neediest citizens with the ability to communicate with prospective and current employers, connect with emergency, health, social, and educational services, and keep in touch with family and friends.

Regrettably, a wealth of misinformation exists around the Lifeline program. Subsidized basic phone service for low-income consumers has been a priority in this country since the Reagan Administration, when Congress first enacted the Lifeline program in 1985. In recognition of the technological shift toward and benefits of mobility, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the George W. Bush Administration expanded the program to include wireless service in 2005.

While some have expressed concerns about the growing size of the Lifeline program, just half of those who qualify for Lifeline benefits actually participate. Participation has increased due in large measure to the economic downturn. Furthermore, Lifeline accounts for less than 20 percent of the annual \$9 billion Universal Service Fund (USF) total expenditures, compared to the "High Cost Fund" which accounts for \$4.5 billion a year of USF money. Furthermore, wireless Lifeline goes directly to individuals in the form of real – and much needed – services.

It has been suggested that support for Lifeline service should be limited to landline phones, despite the fact that society has steadily been moving away from landline phones in favor of wireless technology. Any such limitations would prevent those who benefit the most from wireless Lifeline from obtaining service, particularly migrant workers, people who move often for employment opportunities and transient families. According to the FCC, about 75 percent of all participants in the program choose wireless service over a landline, which is consistent with broader trends, as the use of wireless services by all Americans has steadily increased. In fact, according to a 2012 study from the National Center for Health Statistics, more than a third of all U.S. households are "landline free" and rely strictly on wireless telephones, and that number continues to grow. The rest of

Americans benefit from mobile engagement and staying in contact no matter their location; we believe that low-income consumers should be no different, particularly given the commitment made all the way back to the Reagan era to universal telecommunications access.

While we share concerns about instances of waste, fraud and abuse in the wireless Lifeline program, which divert support from those who truly deserve it, we also must recognize that industry and FCC reforms already are working. We fully support the FCC's major reforms adopted in January of 2012, and the action the agency took to deter duplicative subsidies in the summer of 2011. We agree that consumers should have to demonstrate their eligibility for service and verify that no one else in their household is using the program at the time they sign up. We also applaud the requirement that carriers must, on an annual basis, check a state or federal social service database to confirm eligibility.

Rather than freeze or constrain the program, or require consumer co-payments, the FCC's reforms already have proven to be the appropriate steps to ensure the integrity of the program while increasing its efficiency. Those who are intent on finding "fat" in the Universal Service Fund would be well advised to explore all programs under the USF to make sure that they are operating as well as they possibly can for the public benefit.

We recognize that our nation is facing tough budgetary times. However, cutting or even eliminating the wireless Lifeline program will not reduce the federal deficit by one penny. The program is funded by contributions from telecommunications companies, which may elect to share the costs of those contributions with their subscribers. Far from imposing a burden on taxpayers, wireless Lifeline has been proven to help low-income people find and keep jobs, ultimately reducing spending on public assistance programs.

As you explore issues related to the wireless Lifeline program, we urge you to consider the 15 million low-income families who, without the Lifeline benefits, would have to choose between feeding their children and going without a dial tone that could save their lives or put them on a better economic path through employment.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Generational Equity (AGE)

Alliance for Retired Americans

The American Association of People with Disabilities

Anti-Hunger Action Committee

California Alliance for Retired Americans

Coalition of Religious Communities

Community Action Partnership

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of America

Crossroads Urban Center

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Maryland CASH Campaign

Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

National Alliance to End Homelessness

National Consumers League

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Older Women's League

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

World Institute on Disabilities

cc: Members, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Anthony R. Sarmiento
President and Executive Director

April 18, 2013

Chairman Greg Walden
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ranking Member Anna Eshoo
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RE: Lifeline ensures all Americans have access to telephone service.

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Eshoo, Members of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology:

Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI) is a national nonprofit organization committed to making it possible for low-income and other disadvantaged older adults to participate fully in determining their own future and the future of their communities. For over 40 years, we have operated the federal Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), our largest program, through a network of local subgrantee organizations. We also operate two other programs for older workers.

Through our work with low-income seniors, we know the following to be true. Programs like Social Security have greatly reduced—but not eliminated—poverty among our nation's older adults. Even though the majority of aging baby boomers are healthier, wealthier, and more educated than their parents' generation, the number of adults age 55 and older who are at or just above the federal poverty level is growing faster than the total older population. Now is not the time to hamper this population's ability to maintain telephone service.

The Lifeline program was instituted during the 1980s through bipartisan efforts to make sure that all Americans, regardless of income or geographic location, had telephones in their homes. The program was expanded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to include mobile devices. Lifeline now has come under attack, ironically, at the same time that measures taken by the Federal Communications Commission to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse are showing impressive results.

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April 22, 2013

RE: Lifeline ensures all Americans have access to telephone service.

We urge you to consider the impact that Lifeline has had on low-income seniors. While a \$10 monthly expenditure for phone service may not seem like a burden, consider that it represents a significant percentage of the monthly income for hundreds of thousands of older Americans who barely make it on very limited fixed incomes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Sarmiento
President and Executive Director