

Resolution Urging the Federal Communications Commission to Modernize the Lifeline Program to Address the Homework Gap

WHEREAS, the African American Mayors Association supports policies that help to close the digital divide and make it easier for low-income households with school-age children to have access to broadband Internet, and

WHEREAS, research suggests roughly seven in ten teachers assign homework that requires access to the Internet, and

WHEREAS, minority and low-income students are at a disadvantage without online access in order to do school work, and

WHEREAS, Pew Research analysis of the Census data finds that the lowest-income households have the lowest home broadband subscription rates, and

WHEREAS, according to Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey data, there are 29 million households with school-aged children nationwide and approximately 5 million of those households do not have high-speed internet service at home, and

WHEREAS, low-income households – and especially black and Hispanic ones – make up a disproportionate share of that 5 million, and

WHEREAS, roughly one-third (31.4%) of households whose incomes fall below \$50,000 and with children ages 6 to 17 do not have a high-speed internet connection at home, and

WHEREAS, for many low-income students, wireless broadband is their only means of access to the Internet, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has initiated a rule-making process to overhaul the Lifeline Program, an initiative that subsidizes telephone subscriptions for low-income households, so that it would also cover broadband.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AAMA urges the FCC to modernize its Lifeline Program to allow participants to choose between applying the same support to either voice or broadband Internet service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AAMA urges the FCC to make spectrum for wireless broadband more readily available so that there are more opportunities for students to get their school work done.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States Senate

and House of Representatives, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state, and local government officials, as appropriate.