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September 19, 2022

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 13-184
Ex Parte Letter

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Enterprise Wireless Alliance (“EWA”) was pleased to see Chairwoman Rosenworcel’s May 11, 2022, announcement that she had circulated a declaratory ruling proposing the use of federal funding for Wi-Fi in school buses.¹ EWA’s membership includes a significant number of wireless sales and service organizations around the nation that already provide equipment and services to schools and school buses, some of which is supported through E-Rate funding. They are personally familiar with the needs of schools and their students and are eager to add this much-needed capability to the buses. Wi-Fi access is particularly important in more rural communities where students typically have longer rides and where Wi-Fi access too frequently remains less available or affordable in homes. These and inner-city schools also tend to be resource-limited. Unlike schools in more affluent areas where parent associations can make substantial contributions that supplement school budgets, competition for available funds requires hard choices in many communities. As Chairwoman Rosenworcel stated, “...the Homework Gap is still a hard fact of life for millions of schoolchildren in urban and rural America.”² Federal support for outfitting school buses with Wi-Fi access would be a significant step toward bridging that gap.

The recent filing from the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition urging the FCC to approve the draft Declaratory Ruling and include E-Rate funding for Wi-Fi on school buses is illuminating. The SHLB letter provides detailed information about the length of bus rides in certain areas, about the percentage of students that ride those buses, and about the very promising data from Kajeet, Inc. indicating that students use Wi-Fi for schoolwork when it is available and that there is a corollary improvement in behavior on buses with that capability.

¹ See Press Release, Federal Communications Commission, Chairwoman Rosenworcel Circulates Ruling Making Wi-Fi on School Buses Eligible for E-Rate Funding, (May 11, 2022).

² *Id.*

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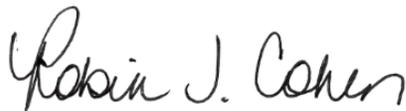
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EWA members that work with public, charter, and private schools throughout the U.S. recognize the importance of this initiative and are eager to help them address the Homework Gap. We urge the FCC to recognize Wi-Fi on school buses as an approved E-Rate service as promptly as possible.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

ENTERPRISE WIRELESS ALLIANCE



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