

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As an increasing number of our constituents have raised concerns to us regarding fraud within the Lifeline and Link Up programs, we respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provide detailed information on these programs and any other within the Universal Service Fund (USF) which provides free or reduced cost cell phones.

Our constituents have brought to our attention anecdotal evidence that the program is providing more than one cell phone to members of the same household and even instances of multiple phones being provided to one individual. As these stories continue to be relayed to us subsequent to the FCC's June report on strengthening enforcement of the one-phone-per-household rule, we would appreciate a detailed account of the success of this renewed emphasis and an estimate for when the FCC anticipates the elimination of all duplicitous phone plans.

We would also appreciate an explanation of why it took the FCC until June of 2011 to realize the growth of the pre-paid wireless industry might result in an increased opportunity for fraud. Pre-paid wireless has been around for literally years, yet only three months ago did the FCC take steps to curtail these practices. Moreover, we note that instead of giving subscribers thirty days to pick which subsidized service they wanted to keep, the FCC should have immediately ended the plan with the highest cost to the USF.

Additionally, we are concerned about the relationship between the entrance of pre-paid wireless providers to the Lifeline and Link Up programs and if this new market participant will have an adverse budgetary effect on these programs. We would also like to know what steps the FCC is taking to ensure that the subsidies it provides for cell phones do not overwhelm the Lifeline and Link Up programs' traditional uses.

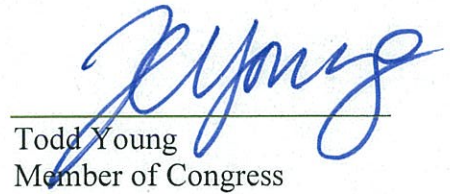
While these phones are not being paid for directly by the Federal government, they are being provided by a program which compels telecommunication users to subsidize costs incurred by other users. As such we must ensure that all steps are taken to eliminate fraud.

We look forward to your timely response and thank you for your thoughtful responses to these questions.

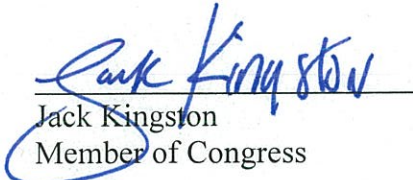
Respectfully,



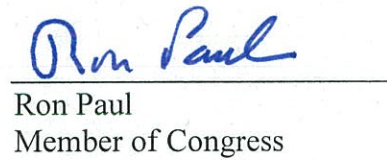
Jeff Landry
Member of Congress



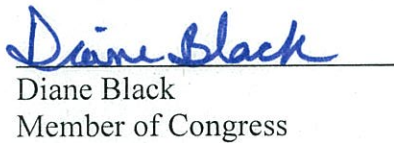
Todd Young
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



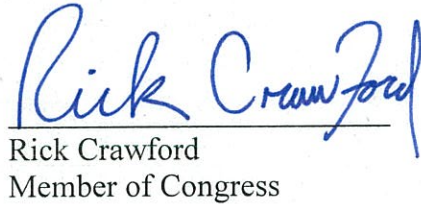
Ron Paul
Member of Congress



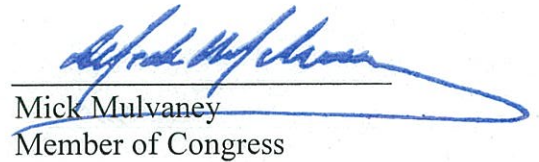
Diane Black
Member of Congress



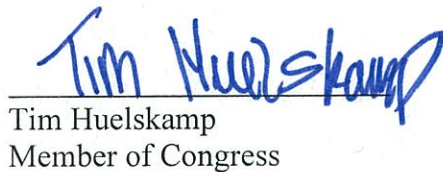
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress