September 15, 2014

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership and for the leadership of the Federal Communications Commission in modernizing the E-Rate program. The Commission's July 11, 2014, order, like your ConnectEd initiative, states a clear vision for connecting all classrooms and libraries to the digital world. While formal comments will be submitted to the Commission, I wish to take this opportunity to share with you our aspiration here in Connecticut.

My goal for Connecticut is to ensure that robust Internet access is available to every student and teacher in every school and to every person in every library. Internet access in our schools and libraries should be as reliable and fast as in businesses and homes on the leading edge of Internet connectivity. Specifically, I would like to see one gigabit per second connectivity to every school and library building, and at least five megabit per second Wi-Fi connectivity in every room in these buildings at times of peak use.

In addition, I would like to see every school and library connected to each other, so that they can share digitized material. We should not accept a situation where some schools and libraries can provide a wealth of informational and educational resources, while others struggle to do the same. In Connecticut, we can arrange for all to share common digital material -- if the Commission provides us the needed funds for all aspects of external and internal connections.

I know the topic of equality of opportunity is near and dear to your heart, Mr. President. The pending Commission proceeding gives us in Connecticut an opportunity to use the E-Rate funding to accomplish the school-library connectivity goal that can directly create opportunity for all our residents, no matter where they live in our state. Our state budget constraints are such that the Commission's E-Rate program is essential to accomplishing our objectives.

Thank you. Your leadership in encouraging this Commission action is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor