

August 23, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Federal Communications Chair Appointment

Dear President Biden,

We write today on behalf of the most influential national multicultural organizations engaged in technology and telecommunications policy solutions, to urge you to appoint Jessica Rosenworcel as permanent chair of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

As the COVID-19 health crisis continues to expose the depth of our country's digital divide and the essential role that broadband access plays in sustaining critical aspects of our everyday lives-- it has also revealed how the continued lack of broadband and digital skills education have resulted in higher rates of poverty, underemployment, and limited vaccine distribution for multicultural communities nationwide. Plainly stated, our telecommunications infrastructure and policies of the past have failed Latino, Black, AANHPI (Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander), and Indigenous communities of color and compounded the negative effects of our country's deeply embedded structural inequalities.

We applaud your administration's ambitious efforts to expand digital opportunity to everyhome and are committed to working collaboratively to promote an inclusive digital economy that makes equity and choice a defining feature of American innovation. **It is in that spirit that we urge you to nominate Jessica Rosenworcel as permanent chair.**

During her eight month tenure as acting chair (the longest the commission has ever gone without permanent leadership) she has been responsive and has made herself and her staff available to us as multicultural stakeholders in ways that we have not experienced in the past.

Through her open door policy coupled with her collaborative leadership approach she has proven herself to be a champion for digital equity and an effective leader and consensus builder for the 50/50 commission.

Jessica Rosenworcel is a dedicated and experienced consumer advocate who, we believe, is ready and able to lead the commission through this important and consequential time. Mrs. Rosenworcel is the right leader for this moment and is best positioned to advance an inclusive agenda that centers equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity for historically marginalized communities.

If appointed, Jessica Rosenworcel would represent another history making announcement as the first woman appointed as permanent chair to the FCC in its almost 100 year history. We fully believe that under her leadership the FCC will have everything it needs to establish new and improved policies to bridge the digital divide, promote inclusive innovation, and will represent an important breakthrough in the commission's work to make digital opportunity accessible to all.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your administration to advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and digital opportunity for all people across the Federal Government.

Sincerely,



Alejandro Roark
Executive Director, HTTP



Brent Wilkes
Vice President, Hispanic Federation



Sindy Benavides
CEO, LULAC



Antonio Tijerino
CEO, Hispanic Heritage Foundation



Ramiro Cavazos
CEO, USHCC



John C. Yang
CEO, AAJC



Ken Lee
CEO, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates



Amy Hinojosa
CEO, MANA



Ron Blackburn
CEO, ASPRIA



Ignacio Salazar
CEO, SER Jobs for Progress



Dr. Elena Rios
CEO, National Hispanic Medical Association



Amanda Fernandez
CEO, Latinos for Education



CiCi Rojas
CEO, The Latino Coalition



Ma. Cristina
CEO, Dialogue on Diversity

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In only a short period of time she has lead the commission in:

- Unanimously started rulemaking to collect equal employment opportunity data from broadcasters--a much needed effort to add more diversity to the media landscape.
- Amplified the work of the recently rechartered/renamed Communications Equity and Diversity Council through the expansion of its scope and mission from its initial focus on the media ecosystem to review more broadly critical diversity and equity issues across the tech sector.
- Unanimously adopting rules creating the nation's largest internet affordability program ever with over 4 million households currently enrolled.
- Unanimously adopting rules to create the nation's largest effort to connect students, during a time when as many as 17 million students were locked out of virtual learning because of their lack of internet access at home.
- Propelling the long overdue work to update the FCC's broadband maps forward by creating the Broadband Data Task Force which is making fast progress on accurately identifying coverage gaps.
- Taking decisive action against robocalls by widely implementing stir/shaken (caller ID authentication), leading interagency coordination, and by leveling the largest fine in FCC history for a Texas robocaller targeting health insurance plans.
- Opened a new \$250 million window for telehealth funding.
- Secured American leadership in the deployment of 5G technology by scheduling a midband auction and continuing work to encourage new technologies like Open-RAN
- Implemented measures to make our networks more secure including a \$1.9 billion program to help American providers replace untrusted equipment.