

Good morning.

My name is Abigail Medina. I am a mother of 5 children, 2 of whom are in college, a wife of over 20 years and currently, Vice President of the San Bernardino City Unified School District Board of Education. I am here to express the value of Lifeline to the many families it helps, especially in my community of the City of San Bernardino, a city which has endured bankruptcy, poverty and most recently, the December 2nd mass killings.

As a resident of San Bernardino, my family, too, struggled financially. When my husband was laid off I worked in the fields Monday through Friday, leaving my family behind in order to pay to reconnect our electricity. Every penny counted. I remember searching through our furniture for that cent that would complete a dollar.

My husband heard about Lifeline from a friend who saw our struggles.

You see, having affordable utility services helped us keep afloat while we worked to improve our situation. Having phone service helped us get that call, needed for a job. And in case of an emergency, especially with our children, we could make that call. These seem like little things, and many people don't realize how important these services are until they have none.

These days, people need the internet to look for work. Children need to research online for homework assignments. Many of our families are experiencing the widening technology, homework and access gaps.

[64% of all Americans](#) believe that expanding broadband access should be a national priority. And the FCC's recent Lifeline decision will help expand access in low income communities. Lifeline internet services will allow many families to better their situations.

In fact, [research](#) shows that that expanding internet access "helps to grow the Gross Domestic Product and personal incomes; that children would have greater educational opportunity, especially to do homework assigned on the Internet that many but not all children today can complete; and that teens and others would have greater opportunity to get health care advice online and save money on health expenses."

I ask you today to think of the many families in my city, San Bernardino, and the many communities throughout our nation who need help to find a way to succeed. I stand before you to oppose capping the Lifeline program, so that no eligible family is turned away from this important necessity.

Thank you.