



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

1575 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010
tel 650.458.5110 | 855.525.8110 | web www.nass.us

July 18, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

The National Association of School Superintendents (NASS) encourages you and your colleagues to approve President Trump's nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel to serve on the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). During her prior FCC service, Ms. Rosenworcel distinguished herself as knowledgeable, creative and effective decision maker and our members welcome the president's decision to reappoint her.

Ensuring school and community access to high capacity broadband must be a steadfast national priority. Equipping students, educators, and families with cutting-edge broadband services creates innovative learning opportunities and rich forums for professional and family collaboration and engagement. Unfortunately, despite significant broadband expansion, these opportunities are not universal. Many rural, high-cost, and low-income communities lack access to affordable and robust broadband networks. This lack of critical telecommunications infrastructure compounds educational inequities in our poorest communities and hampers schools' efforts to prepare all students for success after graduation.

Ms. Rosenworcel recognizes broadband's potential to expand and improve educational opportunities and to fundamentally transform struggling communities. Our members deeply appreciated her efforts to strengthen the E-rate for schools and update the Lifeline program to address the "homework gap." As Congress and the new Administration pursues new infrastructure investments and takes other steps to build on this work, we believe Ms. Rosenworcel would provide an impactful and valuable perspective at the FCC.

Thank you for carefully considering our perspective. We appreciate your leadership on this important matter and would be pleased to tell you more our membership's work to strengthen the nation's school districts and improve academic and life outcomes for kids.

Sincerely,

Tom Armelino, Executive Director, NASS