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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1604

May 25, 2016

Rep. Fred Upton (MI06)
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC's) recently issued a Notice of Apparent Liability alleging a massive fraud perpetrated by Total Call Mobile (Total Call) in the Universal Service Lifeline program. This allegation confirms what many on the Committee and others concerned about the management of the program have long warned: that notwithstanding continued assurances from the FCC leadership, rampant fraud persists. Indeed, the facts of this case seem to indicate that the FCC's failure to take timely action enabled Total Call to continue enrolling tens of thousands of duplicate Lifeline consumers in the program. Often this appears to have been achieved through a mechanism that allowed Total Call to override the National Lifeline Accountability Database, the system that is supposed to identify duplicates and prevent the kind of fraud Total Call is alleged to have perpetrated. This situation is costing Americans millions and is clearly unacceptable.

Now that the FCC has taken steps to expand the scope of the services supported by the Lifeline program without any meaningful controls on its potential size it is more important than ever to ensure waste, fraud and abuse is not just curtailed, but eliminated. Given these events, I request that the Committee conduct an investigation into the management of the Lifeline program. I believe that such action is imperative not only to ensure ratepayer dollars are responsibly spent but also to guarantee the long-term viability of this program for those that truly need the assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

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