

## ***TC-2 Resolution Proclaiming Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness Week***

*Whereas* in today’s highly interconnected world, telephones provide a lifeline to emergency help and a vital link to friends and family; and the Lifeline program provides a discount to eligible low-income customers on their monthly phone bill;

*Whereas* on July 22, 2009, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) Board of Directors resolved to proclaim the first full week in September after Labor Day as National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week;

*Whereas* since 2009, the Federal Communications Commission, NARUC, and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (“NASUCA”) have, every September, promoted Lifeline subscribership by promoting comprehensive outreach to targeted communities;

*Whereas* two decades into the new millennium, it has become clear that access to affordable broadband internet service has become a necessity;

*Whereas* every industry and educational institution directly relies on computing or other digital equipment, and communications in critical aspects of their operations;

*Whereas* because access to broadband is necessary for students to interface with their teachers, for any member of the public to file comments before any federal agency or to seek or apply for many jobs, or to complain to Congress or local government, this means affordable subscription prices, access to connected devices, and digital literacy are vital for the future of the country;

*Whereas* despite its obvious importance, broadband is still far from ubiquitous – millions of our nation’s households do not yet have access to adequate broadband service; *and*

*Whereas* increasing awareness of broadband discounts and related subsidy programs can only help promote broadband adoption, it is time to expand the emphasis of Lifeline Awareness Week and revise the name to reflect that expanded emphasis is appropriate; *now therefore be it*

*Resolved* that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2023 Summer Policy Summit in Austin, Texas, recommends the expansion of Lifeline Awareness Week to incorporate access to broadband services, and therefore urges the Federal Communications Commission and state commissions, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, and eligible telecommunications carriers to proclaim the first full week in September after the week of Labor Day as National Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness Week, and further initiate and promote outreach events during this special week that support broadband and telephone discounts across America.

---

*Passed by the Committee on Telecommunications on July 18, 2023*

*Passed by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 19, 2023*