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January 18, 2007

Ms. Renee Jenkins
 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
 Docketing Division
 180 East Broad Street
 Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Case No. 02-3069-TP-ALT

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

The Greater Toledo Urban League would like to express support for the efforts of AT&T to eliminate custom calling feature restrictions relating to Lifeline Ohio services. These restrictions are unfair and not responsive to customer needs. Eliminating these restrictions will eliminate confusion and provide customers with the ability to choose which telecommunications services best meet their needs.

It is significant to note that the FCC Lifeline guidelines do not call for the same restrictions Ohio imposes. Nor do the other states in which AT&T provides service have similar restrictions. In fact, the FCC has stated that it believes restrictions on vertical services could discourage enrollment in the program.

Customers who only want basic telephone service will still have the opportunity to order only that service. However, there are Lifeline customers that need and want other services currently unavailable to them, such as Caller ID and 3-Way calling. Although current rules allow for a customer to disclose they have medical or safety needs for such services, they are not always inclined to do so. Therefore, these customers often go without a much needed service, or perhaps, choose to give up the Lifeline discount.

Lifeline customers should have the same opportunities other customers have to consider other services and benefit from cost-savings currently not available to them. After all, the goal of the Lifeline plan should be to make phone service affordable, not control customer decision-making and use of telephone services.

We ask that our clients and other Lifeline customers be afforded the opportunity to make their own choices for telecom services. We believe our Lifeline customers would benefit from eliminating these restrictions and urge you to approve AT&T's waiver request.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Johnny Mickler

Johnny Mickler
 Greater Toledo Urban League
 cc: Dennis Hellmann & File

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