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January 23, 2007

PUCO

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:

OASIS/Akron hereby expresses its support for AT&T's waiver request and the efforts to eliminate custom calling feature restrictions relating to Lifeline Ohio services. These restrictions are not fair or responsive to customers' needs and are confusing. Eliminating the restrictions will clear up the confusion and enable customers to choose which telecommunications services best meet their needs.

Even the federal (FCC) Lifeline guidelines do not call for restrictions as limiting as Ohio's, and the other states in which AT&T provides service also do not have such restrictions. The FCC has even stated that it believes restrictions on vertical services could discourage people from enrolling in the program.

Customers who want only basic telephone service will still be able to order only that service. However, some Lifeline customers need and want other services currently unavailable to them, such as caller ID and 3-way calling. Although current rules allow customers to get such services by disclosing that they have medical or safety needs for them, they often are not inclined to do so. Such customers may go without a much needed service or may even choose to give up the Lifeline discount, which isn't fair.

Lifeline customers should have the same opportunities as other customers to consider other services and benefit from cost savings currently not available to them. Lifeline's goal, after all, is to make phone service affordable, not control customers' services and ability to decide!

We ask that our members, senior citizens in Northeastern Ohio, and other Lifeline customers be allowed the opportunity to make their own choices about telecommunications services. We believe Lifeline customers would benefit from eliminating these restrictions and urge you to approve AT&T's waiver request. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky S. Tompkins  
Director, OASIS/Akron

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