

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 22, 2021

Mr. Ronald A. Klain, Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Klain,

We write to express our strongest support of Jessica Rosenworcel to be named the permanent Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). She has spent years raising the important voices and unique needs of women that have been ignored for far too long in technology and telecommunications policy. She has already hit the ground running by taking several bold and important actions as Acting Chairwoman, has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate twice, and is perfectly qualified to be the first Chairwoman of the FCC.

Women make up half of our country's population. We're entrepreneurs, policymakers, mothers, consumers, patients, and professionals, and our needs have been ignored across every sector of society. In her eight years as a Commissioner of the FCC, Jessica Rosenworcel has elevated the voices and needs of women, a small sample of which we've listed here:

- **Net Neutrality and Women Entrepreneurs:** She has been a champion of protecting a free and open internet and has shown that repealing Obama-era net neutrality hurts women, especially women business owners.<sup>1</sup>
- **Lifeline and Domestic Violence Survivors:** She strongly opposed the Trump FCC's gutting of Lifeline, a program to subsidize phone and internet service of low-income Americans, by focusing on how the program is critical for domestic violence survivors.<sup>2</sup>
- **Homework Gap and Mothers:** She refocused the Digital Divide debate on one of its worst outcomes, the "Homework Gap," a phrase she coined to describe the 17 million American children who lack access to high-speed internet.<sup>3</sup> This dynamic has worsened during the pandemic as mothers have had to take on the disproportionate burden of supervising remote learning.<sup>4</sup>
- **Telehealth and Maternal Mortality:** She laid out what the FCC can do to combat the shamefully high maternal mortality rates in our country, including the expansion of telehealth options available to pregnant women.<sup>5</sup>

Since President Biden appointed Jessica Rosenworcel to the role of Acting Chairwoman just four weeks ago, she has already taken steps to reduce the Homework Gap, promote telehealth, and advance many more key priorities.<sup>6</sup> As women lawmakers, we understand the critical importance that women’s voices bring to policymaking, and we cheer what Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel has long brought to the FCC’s work.

Importantly, Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel inspires our daughters by showing them that they can succeed and thrive in technology policy, a role she has played long before being appointed to her current seat. For years she has hosted a podcast where she interviews women technology leaders,<sup>7</sup> and she has spoken openly about how working mothers can be policy leaders.<sup>8</sup> Her words and actions show our daughters that there is a place for them in technology.

In its nearly 90-year history, the FCC has embarrassingly never had a woman as a permanent chair. This is an unacceptable reality for an agency that oversees one-sixth of our nation’s economy and makes consequential decisions that impact all Americans. While Jessica Rosenworcel is the second woman to be Acting Chair of the FCC, we urge the Administration to nominate her to the permanent role of Chairwoman.

Most gratefully,

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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

Cynthia Axne  
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Torey Van Oot, “Why Women Need Net Neutrality,” *InStyle*, October 30, 2018, <https://www.instyle.com/celebrity/jessica-rosenworcel-fcc-commissioner>.

<sup>2</sup> Jessica Rosenworcel, “I’m On The FCC. Don’t Let Us Make It Harder For Domestic Violence Survivors To Get Help.” *Bustle*, June 6, 2018, <https://www.bustle.com/p/how-the-fcc-will-make-it-harder-for-domestic-violence-survivors-to-get-help-9306922>.

<sup>3</sup> Tanya Basu, “Why the ‘Homework Gap’ Is Key to America’s Digital Divide,” *MIT Technology Review*, October 13, 2020, <https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/10/13/1010243/jessica-rosenworcel-homework-gap-key-to-americas-digital-divide/>.

<sup>4</sup> Meghan McCarty Carino, “Mothers Overwhelmingly Supervise Remote Learning, Poll Finds,” *Marketplace*, October 16, 2020, <https://www.marketplace.org/2020/10/15/mothers-overwhelmingly-supervise-remote-learning-poll-finds/>.

<sup>5</sup> Jessica Rosenworcel, “Many Pregnant Women Live Too Far From a Doctor to Get Regular Care,” *Time*, November 26, 2019, <https://time.com/5740091/maternal-care-rural-counties/>.

<sup>6</sup> Jessica Rosenworcel (@JRosenworcelFCC), Twitter post, February 3, 2021, 12:49 p.m., <https://twitter.com/JRosenworcelFCC/status/1357023525857611777>.

<sup>7</sup> Jessica Rosenworcel, *Broadband Conversations*, <https://www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/jessica-rosenworcel#podcast>.

<sup>8</sup> Caitlin Gibson, “A Record Number of Congresswomen Are Mothers. Here’s a Glimpse inside Their First-Ever Caucus.” *Washington Post*, April 16, 2019, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/on-parenting/a-record-number-of-congresswomen-are-mothers-heres-a-glimpse-inside-their-first-ever-caucus/2019/04/16/b563b964-5c77-11e9-842d-7d3ed7eb3957\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/on-parenting/a-record-number-of-congresswomen-are-mothers-heres-a-glimpse-inside-their-first-ever-caucus/2019/04/16/b563b964-5c77-11e9-842d-7d3ed7eb3957_story.html).