

**DISSENTING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion*, GN Docket No. 17-199.

I believe the future belongs to the connected. That's because a broadband connection is more than a technology—it's a platform for opportunity. No matter who you are or where you live in this country, you need access to modern communications to have a fair shot at 21st century success. That's a fact.

There are also many facts in this Broadband Deployment Report, but what stands out most is a single finding. This report concludes that in the United States the deployment of broadband to all Americans is reasonable and timely. This is ridiculous—and irresponsible. Today there are 24 million Americans without access to broadband. There are 19 million Americans in rural areas who lack the ability to access high-speed services at home. There are 12 million school-aged children who are falling into the Homework Gap because they do not have the broadband at home they need for nightly schoolwork. Ask any one of them if they think the deployment of the most essential digital age infrastructure is reasonable and timely and you will get a resounding “No.” To call these numbers a testament to our national success is insulting and not credible.

To be sure, there are communications providers across the country that have done yeoman's work to deploy more high-speed services in hard-to-reach places. They deserve kudos for their effort. But it is premature for this agency to declare mission accomplished.

Moreover, I believe that the future belongs to the bold. This is the country that put a man on the moon. We invented the Internet. History demonstrates that when we set audacious goals we can do big things. We need to do better than dream small if we want to lead the world. It's past time for the FCC to go big and update its national broadband standard from 25 Megabits to 100 Megabits. On this point we have work to do—because at this speed when you factor in price the United States ranks only 26th in the world. Our unwillingness to own up to this here has consequences—we shortchange our children, our future, and our digital economy.

I dissent.