

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Promoting Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Through Handset Unlocking Requirements and Policies (Docket 24-186)

Dear Chairman Carr,

We strongly support the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to address affordability for consumers by adopting a more uniform standard to mobile device unlocking rules. Due to President Trump and your work, the Consumer Price Index shows the overall real cost of wireless service declined over 6 percent last year. As an effort to build on this work, we write to urge the Commission to finalize its rulemaking on mobile device unlocking to restore consumer freedom and competitive market principles so consumers can take full advantage of lower prices.

Most mobile phones sold in the United States contain software that prevents the device from being used on different mobile networks. These "locked" phones create artificial restrictions for consumers that hinder competition and can keep families in overpriced plans even when far more affordable options are readily available. The inconsistency among carrier practices functions as a barrier that restricts consumer freedom and limits competition. Providing a clear, nationwide unlocking rule would allow the wireless marketplace to operate more freely and efficiently. It would promote competition, encourage innovation, and deliver tangible affordability benefits to American households.

Recent national polling shows that 93 percent of voters agree that it should be easy to take your cellphone or device with you to a new wireless provider, just like you can take your phone number with you. Given the overwhelming public support, the Commission has a unique opportunity to make an impactful difference in American's lives by addressing affordability for consumers and promoting a vibrant and competitive mobile marketplace for years to come.

We urge the Commission to seize this opportunity and finalize its pending rulemaking. We believe the Commission can adopt a reasonable, time-limited standard, such as 180 days, to appropriately address fraud mitigation while ensuring consumers are not indefinitely restricted

from choosing a more affordable plan. Device unlocking is pro-consumer, pro-competition, and represents an opportunity to fulfill another aspect of President Trump's affordability agenda.

We appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity for further discussion.

Sincerely,



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



Bernie Moreno
United States Senator