



**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND GENERAL
GOVERNMENT
Senate Bill 69**

Testimony of Jon Cray

Oregon Public Utility Commission

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The Oregon Telephone Assistance Program is the state's counterpart to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Lifeline program that provides eligible low-income Oregonians with a discount on phone service. The FCC provides \$9.25 per month and the state of Oregon provides an additional \$3.50.

In 2016, the FCC adopted an order to subsidize broadband internet access service from the Lifeline program. The FCC did so to transition the discount from phone service to broadband internet access service. However, the state of Oregon discount is limited to phone service.

The statutory objective of the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program is to supplement, to the maximum extent possible, the funding available from the FCC. Therefore, Senate Bill 69 aligns Oregon statute to FCC regulations in which eligible low-income Oregonians can receive the state of Oregon discount on their broadband internet access service.

The Public Utility Commission encourages you to pass this bill so eligible low-income Oregonians can receive the state of Oregon discount on their broadband internet access service in addition to the FCC discount.