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National Hispanic Medical Association

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Attorney General, State of California
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

I write to you today as the President and CEO of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA). Our organization is dedicated on improving the health of Hispanics, combating health disparities, and empowering Hispanic physicians to be leaders in the medical field. We have witnessed incredible medical innovations and far-reaching progress in health care over the past 25 years but all too often these changes leave Latinos behind.

NHMA seeks to close the gap between health care services and innovation to improve the health of Hispanics and other underserved populations. To do so, we need access to affordable, high-speed, reliable connectivity and that is why NHMA is expressing its support for the T-Mobile-Sprint merger.

Currently, only 46% of Latinos have high-speed broadband service at home. When communities lack access to high-speed broadband services, they also fail to benefit from revolutionary medical technologies that depend on a reliable network connection—like telemedicine and wearable connected medical devices—that can improve their health and well-being. These technologies will only be enhanced by the next generation of wireless broadband service and it is critical that the future of medical innovation be accessible for all. Expanding robust broadband service is foundational to achieving this goal.

After the close of the merger, the new company will do just that: expand access to reliable broadband and deliver a transformative nationwide 5G network. This network will have the speed to support innovative, connected medical technologies and expand telemedicine offerings, seamlessly connecting patients with doctors hundreds of miles away. Innovations like wearable and continuous remote health monitoring devices, powered by New T-Mobile's 5G network, will allow real-time information sharing between doctors and patients, helping improve outcomes for those who currently lack access to physicians and care.

What makes this even more compelling is that New T-Mobile's nationwide 5G network will reach many Americans who have historically been underserved. The new company has committed to an accelerated rural broadband deployment, which will bring 5G coverage to 97% of the country's population and 85% of rural Americans within three years of close. Within six years of close, those figures jump to 99% and 90%, respectively. This deployment of 5G services and technologies provides us with the opportunity to make the next transformative wave of medical innovation and technologies more inclusive and accessible to Hispanic communities and all Americans.

To further drive inclusion in wireless, New T-Mobile has dedicated itself to putting its far-reaching network capacity to work for good after the close of the merger. The new company signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with civil rights leaders from the National Urban League, National Action Network, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, League of United Latin American Citizens, and UnidosUS to help ensure these benefits reach those most in need. As a part of the MOU, New T-Mobile has committed significant philanthropic investments to institutions serving disadvantaged or underrepresented communities to support tech entrepreneurship and bridge the gap in literacy, job training, and participation in the digital economy for communities of color. The new company has also announced new initiatives like Project 10Million and T-Mobile Connect that will make wireless more accessible for underserved communities. Project 10Million aims to end the homework gap between higher- and lower-income students by offering free service, hotspots, and low-cost devices to 10 million households and families over five years, and T-Mobile Connect will cut the price of T-Mobile's current lowest cost wireless plan in half.

However, these benefits cannot be fully realized without the massive increase in capacity created by combining the complementary spectrum portfolios of T-Mobile and Sprint. In short, none of these commitments is possible without the merger.

All key regulatory federal agencies—the Federal Communications Commission, Department of Justice, and Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States—have approved the merger, 18 of 19 state public utility commissions have acted favorably, and 15 state attorney generals have expressed their support for the transaction. It is time to let this deal move forward and unleash its benefits to all Americans. We need a meaningful new wireless competitor that will leverage its transformative nationwide 5G network to increase competition and bring forth a broad and inclusive wave of innovation.

For your constituents, please reconsider the public interest merits of the merger and the way the proposed transaction will improve businesses and lives throughout the country.

Please contact me with any questions at (202) 628-5895 or at nhma@nhmamd.org.

Sincerely,



Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP
President & CEO
National Hispanic Medical Association