

# **#MobileOnly Challenge Talking Points**

*MobileOnlyChallenge.com*

**The Challenge:** spend one day using only your mobile device to access the internet for all work and personal needs. Don't forget to turn off wi-fi! Share experiences online using hashtag **#MobileOnly**.

## **The FCC's role in overseeing broadband:**

- FCC is in charge of overseeing the nation's telecom and broadband infrastructure
- Congress told FCC to ensure all Americans have access to high-speed broadband internet
- To make this determination, FCC defines "high-speed broadband" on a yearly basis
- Currently, definition is fixed access at 25 mbps download / 3 mbps upload
- With that definition, most recent data shows that
  - 10% of Americans lack access to high-speed broadband
  - 39% of rural Americans lack access to high-speed broadband, and
  - 51% of Americans have one choice of high-speed broadband provider

## **What the FCC is trying to do now:**

- Under new leadership, FCC is trying to redefine what constitutes "high-speed broadband" to a lower standard
  - Lowering the standard will effectually hide America's digital divide
- Current proposal is mobile access alone should be sufficient for "high-speed broadband"
- This would
  - curtail the FCC's ability to help encourage broadband buildout, and
  - further solidify the digital divide that currently exists in the US
- Basically, the FCC is trying to define away the digital divide problem in this country and absolve itself of its responsibility to ensure the most vulnerable Americans (rural, low-income) have access to high-speed broadband

## **Why we are participating and encouraging others to participate in the #MobileOnly Challenge:**

- We disagree with the FCC, it should not redefine high-speed broadband to hide the digital divide in this country
- We want to show the FCC that mobile alone is insufficient for many uses of the internet beyond email and surfing the internet and social media
- To do this, we need as many people as possible to participate
  - Try to accomplish work tasks on your phone
  - Try to stream high definition (720p) video on your phone

- Try to multi-task as if you were on a computer and a fixed broadband connection
- People living in rural areas in particular should participate
- **Don't forget to turn off wi-fi!** This is about testing Americans' ability to use the cellular network for all daily activities

**Why a robust internet connection is essential:**

- Having a quality internet connection is important for more than just streaming Netflix. Some important online actions:
  - **Education:** completing homework, collaborating with classmates, accessing resources and tools
  - **Finance:** online banking and alerts, price comparisons and access to deals and bulk ordering
  - **Career:** finding job opportunities, creating a portfolio or resume, networking, learning about new career paths or goals
  - **Safety:** looking up bus routes and times, staying informed about neighborhood crime
  - **Political participation:** access to candidates' platforms, participating in online discussions, communicating with elected officials, accessing city government tools
  - **Social communication:** staying in touch with family and friends via email, social media, Skype, and more; meeting new people online
  - **Entrepreneurship:** setting up a company website, marketing, networking, research, access to grants and awards
  - **Health:** finding nearby doctors, signing up for health insurance, looking up online workouts, information about nearby rec leagues or gym deals, access to new research in the fields of medicine and nutrition
  - **Information access and sharing:** staying informed about world, national, and local news and events, having the ability to participate in online discourse, having a platform to share a unique perspective or idea and consume those of others
  - **Entertainment:** access to movies, music, TV shows, sports, entertainment news, and other pop culture