United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 03, 2016

Mr. Thomas Wheeler
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

We write in support of the requested Petition for Waiver of FCC Regulations at 47 C.F.R. 64.1601 (B) submitted by the Enlarged City School District of Middletown, New York to the Federal Communications Commission. This waiver would temporarily permit telecommunications carriers to transmit restricted calling party numbers of anyone calling the Middletown School District. We believe this waiver is important for the safety, security, and learning opportunities of the students and faculty.

Located in Orange County, New York, the Middletown School District has a population of nearly 7,000 students throughout seven different schools, serving the city of Middletown as well as portions of the towns of Wallkill, Wawayanda, and Goshen. The District works to foster a safe and secure environment where students can learn and achieve the most from their academic and social development. However, recently the Middletown City School District has been victimized by repeated threatening calls.

Since June 2015, the District has received fourteen bomb threats, all telephonically through restricted calling party numbers. When this happens, the school must follow lock-down procedures. Students are unable to use the restrooms, access necessary medications, or move from their classroom hiding locations. The requested waiver submitted by the Middletown School District would allow the District access to these restricted calling party numbers in order to identify the harassing caller and stop the threats.

The Middletown School District is asking for a similar waiver granted by the FCC in 2013 to the Liberty Public School District in Missouri. In the Liberty Public School District Order, the Federal Communications Commission determined that the waiver was in the public interest because it enabled the District to protect its students and personnel. Furthermore, as a well-defined institution, Liberty Public School District was not subject to discriminatory application of the waiver. Middletown School District presents nearly identical circumstances to the Liberty Public School District case.

This waiver would help to end the frightening disruptions during school days and thereby help to restore a safe and secure environment for the students and faculty of the Middletown School District. We urge you to give this application your full and expedited consideration.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress