

From: Brooks, Scott (Telecom) <scott.brooks@tdstelecom.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:01 AM
To: Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: [External] RE: Senate Finance Committee - Friday January 29

[External]

Good Morning Faith,

I have not responded because I belong the Telephone Association of Vermont and Kim Gates and Roger Nishi will be speaking on behalf of the association tomorrow afternoon.

That said, In light of the pandemic, TDS instituted a program called **TDS Connect** which provides qualified customers with UP TO 25M/5M internet for \$19.95 per month for 12 months, including Free Wi-Fi.

Qualification:

In order to qualify for TDS Connect, customers must participate in one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP))
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veteran's Pension and Survivor's Pension Benefits
- The National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

The rationale behind the program is as such. TDS serves customers in 30+ states and it was incredibly difficult to participate in each of the different programs in each state given the varying requirements so we decided to implement this program instead.

Lastly, although I don't plan to speak tomorrow can I still listen in, and if so, can you please send me the call-in information.

Thanks so much and stay safe,

Scott

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