



Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide

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**Statement of the Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide
in Response to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Vote
on the Open Internet Proceeding**

CHICAGO - The Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide (MAADD) is pleased to see that the FCC has come to a conclusion on the net neutrality issue and we hope the final decision is one that will allow us to move forward and focus on policies that will narrow the Digital Divide. We are grateful to the Commission for seeking public input and allowing us the chance to hear the voice of the communities that we represent.

After years of debate it appears that the FCC has voted in the direction of compromise that will not impede the investment in broadband technologies that our communities so desperately need. As ministers, we are driven to promote technology that will allow us to create progress in our neighborhoods and empower individuals. But to do this we need to ensure that the social, educational and economic tools that are available through broadband-enabled technologies are affordable to all. Greater access to broadband will embolden communities and enrich people's lives, in addition to creating critical jobs in our cities and towns, which is the top priority for Americans.

Hopefully, we can now move on beyond the net neutrality debate and focus on the important goals of closing the Digital Divide and ensuring that every American has access to broadband.

Founded in 2003, MAADD is a 30,000+ member, next-generation civil rights organization led by ministers devoted to bridging the digital divide and promoting personal and economic development in low-income and minority communities across the country. For more information about MAADD, please visit www.maadd.org.