Highlight of broadband provisions in the Heroes Act
H.R. 6800 passed the House on May 15, 2020

1. **E-Rate**: Provides $1.5 billion through the FCC’s E-Rate program for schools and libraries to purchase hotspots, connected devices, and connectivity-related equipment to support distance learning.

2. **Lifeline**: Provides $4 billion to fund $50/month for low-income families already eligible for the FCC’s Lifeline program and those who have been laid off or furloughed to pay their internet service bills.

3. **Continuation of service**: Bars telephone and broadband providers from stopping service for consumers unable to pay during the emergency.

4. **Mental health crisis hotline**: Designates 9-8-8 as the nationwide suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

5. **Incarcerated persons’ connectivity**: Reduces the rates that incarcerated persons pay to use connectivity services.

6. **First responders**: Ensures that first responders have access to the airwaves they need for communication, particularly on the T-Band.

Sources: Benton Institute for Broadband and Society. Edited by Michael Tinsley