

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Schumer,

We, the undersigned, urge you to support access to affordable broadband internet in forthcoming COVID-19 stimulus package(s). Tens of millions of Americans don't have broadband internet at home. Low-income families, rural residents, and people of color are particularly affected, leaving our most vulnerable communities struggling to stay connected with school, work, healthcare, entertainment, and their loved ones during the COVID-19 crisis.

To make matters worse, more than 26 million Americans and counting have lost their jobs due to the pandemic, and millions more have likely had their hours and pay reduced. These individuals may struggle to pay their broadband bills -- if broadband is available to them at all.

During a time when communication tools have never been more critical, and unemployment has never been so high, Congress must enact policies to ensure that everyone has broadband internet. Broadband is crucial for keeping residents home, safe, and as connected with everyday life as possible during these trying times. Broadband enables people to work remotely, access medical care, and apply for government benefits. As all levels of education and training transition online for the foreseeable future, reliable internet access is essential for students to be successful. Perhaps most importantly, broadband allows residents who are isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic to stay informed, entertained, and connected with loved ones while protecting public health.

Like food, water, and electricity, everyone needs broadband internet service during this unprecedented crisis. That is why Congress must include policies that support broadband availability, including increased funding for adoption, network sustainability, and deployment for areas still lacking access, in upcoming stimulus packages.

Sincerely,

Industry

A Better Wireless, NISP, LLC
American Sustainable Business Council
Channelford Associates Inc
CommScope, Inc.
Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)
Digital West
E-rate Central
EDGE Consulting Partners
ELAE Enterprises, LLC
Engine
Epic Communications, Inc.
Espy Services Inc.
Fiber Broadband Association
Fully Equipped 4 Life Training Solutions
GWI, Inc
I-Light Indiana's Higher Education Optical Network
INCOMPAS
IT Remarketing, Inc. (DBA TechnoCycle)
Kajeet, Inc.
Lit Communities, LLC
Mighty River, LLC
Mobile Beacon
Mozilla Corporation
National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ACE)
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
North Carolina Telehealth Network Association
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association
On-Tech Consulting, Inc.
Open Hub
Pacific Northwest Gigapop
Revolution D, Inc.
Rural Wireless Association, Inc.
Silicon Harlem
Smart City Media LLC
Sonic Telecom
Starry, Inc.
Stem Nastics LLC
Stemnastics LLC
Synogy Group

Tribal Digital Village Network
Twitter, Inc.
Utah Education and Telehealth Network
Velocity Fiber
Vimeo, Inc.
Waste Management Innovations, Inc.
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

Local Government and Government Associations

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
League of Oregon Cities
National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors
National League of Cities
State of New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority SFA
Washoe County, NV
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Nonprofits and Other Associations

Access Humboldt
Access Now
Adoptions Together
Adult Learning Center
Advance CTE
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
Alabama Supercomputer Authority
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFLCIO
Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents
Austin Free-Net
Austin Pathways at the Housing Authority of the City of Austin
Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
Brookline Interactive
California IT in Education (CITE)
Cambridge Public Access Corporation dba Cambridge Community Television
Center for Democracy & Technology
Center for Innovative Technology
Center for Rural Strategies
Central City Concern
Change Inc.

Citizens Action Coalition of IN
Common Cause
Common Sense Media
Communications Workers of America
Community Justice Project
Connect Your Community
Connected Insights
Connecting For Good
Consumer Reports
CoSN - Consortium for School Networking
Demand Progress
Digital Harbor Foundation
Digital Inclusion Practitioners of NJ
Disability Rights Pennsylvania
E2D, Inc.
Educators for Excellence
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Energy Outreach Colorado
EraseTheRedline Inc
EveryLibrary Institute
EveryoneOn
Fight for the Future
Filipina Women's Network
Free Geek
Free Press Action
Future of Music Coalition
Generations on Line
George Wiley Center
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Grahamtastic Connection
HBCU Innovation Center
Health Information Exchange of Montana
Health, Education and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership
Higher Learning Advocates
Home Forward
HOPE Village Revitalization
Hopes Cap Inc,
Human-I-T
IBSA, Inc.
Independent Sector
Information Technology Exchange
InnovateEDU
Institute for Higher Education Policy

Institute for Intellectual Property & Social Justice
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
International Society for Technology in Education
Internet Society
Island Institute
Japanese American Citizens League
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
Latino Network
Low Income Utility Advocacy Project
Marconi Society
Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools
Media Alliance
MediaJustice
Merit Network, Inc.
Mobile Citizen
mohuman
Montana Organizing Project
MORE
Mountain Connect
Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC)
MuralNet
NAACP
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients
National Cristina Foundation
National Digital Inclusion Alliance
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
National Skills Coalition
National Summer Learning Association
National Urban League
Native Public Media, Inc.
New America Education Policy Program
New America's Open Technology Institute
New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education (NHSTE)
Nostos Charity
NTEN
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
Open Signal: Portland Community Media
Oregon Citizens' Utility Board
Palmetto Care Connections
Partners Bridging the Digital Divide

PCs for People Baltimore
Pennsylvania Mountains Healthcare Resource Development
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project, on behalf of our low income clients
PhillyCAM
Project Appleseed
Public Knowledge
R Street Institute
Right Here, Right Now Project
ROANEnet
Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition
Schuylkill Women in Crisis
South Carolina Office of Rural Health
St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium
Success Against All Odds
Tech Goes Home
Tech:NYC
Technology For All
Temple University - WELL Program
The Education Trust
The Hunt Institute
The Mann Center for the Performing Arts
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
United Communities Southeast Philadelphia
United Neighborhood Centers
Utah Center for Civic Improvement
VALUEUSA
Vermont Mutual Aid Society
Vietnamese Social Services
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Virginia Society for Technology in Education
Voqal
Women's Resource Center
World Education, Inc.
Writers Guild of America West
X-Lab

Schools and Libraries

Boulder Valley School District
California Center for Rural Policy
Cheektowaga Public Library
Dunkirk Public Library
Free Library of Philadelphia

Gigabit Libraries Network
LEARN: Lonestar Education and Research Network
Multnomah Education Service District
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
Niagara Falls Public Library
Northeast Kansas Library System
Portland Community College
Providence Public Library
PSTV - Education Channel of the School District of Philadelphia
Sonoma County Library
St. Bonaventure University
State Educational Technology Directors Association
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Western New York Library Resources Council
Ysleta Independent School District