



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 14, 2020

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
United States House of Representatives
200 Cannon, HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 7302 (Clyburn): The Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act

Dear Majority Whip Clyburn,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of H.R. 7302 (Clyburn). As an affiliate of the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) and a leader in advancing digital equity and inclusion, Long Beach is committed to addressing the digital divide. The funding proposed by the Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act would greatly expand our capacity to provide access to digital resources throughout the city and secure infrastructure investments in our unconnected and underconnected communities.

For nine consecutive years, Long Beach has been named a Top 10 Digital City by the Center for Digital Government. Yet, a significant portion of the Long Beach community still faces barriers to quality in-home Broadband Internet. In Long Beach, low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected by the digital divide. Recognizing this challenge, in 2018 the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved the development of a Digital Inclusion Initiative, which focuses on ensuring that everyone has access to and use of digital literacy training, the Internet, and technology devices to be successful in society, regardless of their background and identity. Long Beach is also one of only fourteen jurisdictions to be named a 2020 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer by the NDIA, an honor roll of local government initiatives that promote digital literacy and Broadband Internet access for underserved residents.

The Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act would provide integral resources for the City to implement our local Initiative, helping to close gaps in Broadband Internet access and bolster digital skills. The City is in the process of co-creating a Digital Inclusion Roadmap with community members and stakeholders that will include a vision, goals, objectives, strategies, and performance indicators for advancing digital equity and inclusion through a collective impact approach and equity lens as they relate to capacity, connectivity, and technology. Funding allocated through this legislation would support ongoing staffing to implement these local programs, award grants to community-based organization partners, distribute technology devices, offer technical assistance and digital literacy training, and ensure Internet access for all Long Beach community members.

For these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports H.R. 7302 (Clyburn).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Kamala Harris
The Honorable Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th District
The Honorable Congressman Nanette Barragan, 44th District