

**Subject line:** Prioritizing digital equity in legislation and budgets

Dear [\[elected official title and name\]](#),

I am a resident of [\[city/district/region\]](#) writing to ask for your support in prioritizing digital equity initiatives in upcoming lawmaking and budgeting. Your legislative aid is a requirement in dismantling the harmful practices that have contributed to the [digital divide](#).

Affordable internet, access to large-screen digital devices, and technology skills are a necessity that millions of Americans across the United States are living without.

- [1 in 5 parents with children](#) say their homework can't be completed due to computer access or an unreliable internet connection.
- [29% of Black households and 35% of Latinx households](#) are without a broadband connection.
- [52 million adults](#) lack basic digital skills, so when they receive devices, those devices are left disconnected and unused.

To create actionable change toward digital equity, I ask that you:

**1. Prioritize digital skills in education reform.**

When we trace the impact that digital skill gaps have on schooling and early career placement, we see that the toll on our economy is severe. A recent [McKinsey study](#) estimated that the United States will suffer a gross domestic product loss of up to \$271 billion per year by 2040 if learning gaps brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic aren't addressed.

**2. Publicly support consumer broadband labels (Section 60504 of the [Infrastructure Act](#)).**

Much like the Truth in Savings Act requires financial institutions to provide baseline comparative statistics for deposit accounts, we are calling on internet service providers to provide baseline comparative information for broadband services:

- Standard rates for internet plans that are offered with time-limited discounted rates for new customers
- Monthly fees and surcharges routinely added to customers' bills
- Upload speeds associated with advertised download speeds

The National Digital Inclusion Alliance has provided [recommendations](#) to the Federal Communications Commission for broadband label requirements.

**3. Hire digital inclusion practitioners on your staff.**

Digital inclusion work requires a deep and personal understanding of the issue at hand. Historical knowledge of coalitions, digital equity funding, and best practices are needed to make effective headway with both elected officials and community members at large.

My hope is that you share this sentiment with your colleagues, and that awareness on this issue rises so we may move closer to bridging the digital divide together.

Sincerely,

[\[Insert your name here\]](#)