



May 28, 2025

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, California 95814-4900

Support SB 716: The California Home Internet Lifeline Act of 2025

Dear Senator McGuire:

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) to urge you to support the California Home Internet Lifeline Act of 2025 (SB 716), which will expand Lifeline support to home Internet services while preserving the existing telephone Lifeline program. The NBNCBC is a consortium comprised of four county governments: Sonoma County, Mendocino County, Marin County, and Napa County. Our mission is to promote broadband access and adoption within our region. Access to the internet is immensely important for all Californians, as the internet has become one of the primary ways people communicate. It is much more difficult to find employment, schedule a doctor's appointment, or receive urgent public safety alerts without it. Universal internet access has broad economic benefits, as well as enriching the lives of the people that use it.

According to the 2023 Statewide Digital Equity Survey performed by the University of Southern California's Annenberg Research Network, affordability is the top reason for low-income households to lack an internet connection. 35.6% of unconnected households state that affordability is the primary issue, versus only 2.7% that cite the unavailability of an internet connection.

We request your "aye" vote on SB 716 to ensure that Californians have access to affordable Internet to participate in the digital age. Please do not allow the opponents of this bill to leave our most vulnerable Californians without internet access.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Revis
Interim Manager, North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium

cc: Kyle O'Ryan, California Emerging Technology Fund