

January 25, 2021

Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Support for SB 66 / HB 97 – Digital Connectivity Act of 2021 – Dept of Housing – Office of Digital Inclusion – Established.

Good day members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee.

I am writing to you today to support expanding access to high-speed internet service, affordable fees and the establishment of an office of digital equality by way of the Digital Connectivity Act of 2021.

Parents and advocate for education fully support this important piece of legislation and will have a huge impact on many Maryland families. Especially as we all remain at home, in the midst of distance learning demands on families due to the lasting impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. The many inequities in internet access, the digital divide, have been brought to the forefront of conversations around equality and access to the internet, especially as it relates to access to remote learning.

All Maryland families and students deserve access to affordable, consistent, high-quality broadband services. In today's world, digital access is a necessity rather than a luxury service option. Many citizens rely on reliable, affordable broadband services for so many aspects of their daily lives. Please help all Maryland citizens achieve equal access to vital services vital to modern day life.

We hope that you will all fully support this bill and take the actions that can help bring more equity and equality to so many Maryland communities that truly need these services to access modern broadband services.

Please vote to support SB 66 / HB 97, The Digital Connectivity Act of 2021.

Thank you.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo,
Parent and advocate for children with disabilities and Maryland families.
Parent Advocacy Consortium