



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 0551

In Support Of

Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023

Ways and Means Committee

Hearing: February 16, 2023, 1:00 PM

Dear Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair, and distinguished Ways and Means Committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Supports HB 0551 Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023.

It is the position of MRSPA that expanding broadband services is critical, especially where such access is currently not available. This Bill is important for several reasons. One, with Maryland school systems continuing to utilize virtual learning options to support student progress, all students need to be able to access these sources/resources. Second, expanding access allows medical practitioners to continue conducting virtual appointments when necessary for those unable to travel to meet with his/her physician. Third, the Bill would allow economic expansion for businesses looking to integrate areas needing their services. These are only three important reasons for this Bill to pass, but in a state as wealthy as Maryland, there is no reason why some Marylanders still cannot access this important service.

It is vitally important to all vulnerable Marylanders, young and old, to have access to high-speed internet regardless of where they live and of their ability to pay. In 2023, internet access is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

On behalf of the over 12,000 members of The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge a favorable report on HB 0551.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Duls
President

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide