



PaRa loS niÑoS



for the childRen



April 20, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 286 (Wood) Broadband infrastructure mapping - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Holden,

The undersigned organizations strongly support AB 286 (Wood), which improves the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) statewide broadband map by increasing transparency, granularity, and accuracy for household broadband service data. The bill has minimal direct cost to the state.

There are significant [disparities in broadband adoption across California](#), and to thrive in modern society, California's families need affordable, high-quality internet service. Unfortunately, the patchwork of varying broadband access and internet speeds across our state disproportionately affects rural, tribal, and low-income communities. This practice, referred to as "digital redlining," demonstrates the need for greater transparency from the internet service providers (ISPs) we have trusted to serve our communities.

Unfortunately, mapping efforts at the federal and state levels have suffered without timely, accurate [data from ISPs on their service areas](#). Consistent misrepresentation of service to unserved and underserved communities further ingrains historical redlining and disincentivizes investment in these communities, which is more critical than ever before as [federal funding begins to be allocated](#).

AB 286 would empower households to refute speeds or technology that ISPs claim to provide to their address as well as submit their own data on internet service speeds, pricing, access to providers, and more. More granular data in the statewide map like this will ensure state agencies have a better understanding of internet

service offerings for unserved and underserved communities. Identifying these inequities is a critical step in addressing digital redlining and achieving universal internet access.

We strongly support policies and programs that ensure more Californians have access to high quality, affordable internet services. We also believe that internet access must be treated as a right for all Californians and not just a luxury for some. For the above reasons, we respectfully request your “Aye” vote on AB 286.

Sincerely,

Kami Peer, State Policy Associate  
Common Sense Media

Shayna Englin, Director Digital Equity Initiative  
California Community Foundation

Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director  
NextGen California

Tracy Rosenberg, Executive Director  
Media Alliance

Jason Foster, President & COO  
Destination Crenshaw

Dan Nieman, Vice President, External Affairs  
Para Los Niños

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California

Geoffrey Baum, Executive Director  
Michelson Center for Public Policy

Patrick Messac, Director  
#OaklandUndivided

Lawrence Fondation, Executive Director  
United Parents and Students (UPAS)

Hannah Gravette, Regional VP  
Innovate Public Schools

Maddie Ribble  
Policy Director, Social Drivers of Health  
The Children's Partnership

Paola Schenkelberg, MSW  
External Affairs Director  
Communities In Schools of Los Angeles (CISLA)

Brandon Forester  
National Organizer for Internet Rights  
MediaJustice and the MediaJustice Network

Mario Valenzuela, Senior Vice President  
Equity, Inclusion, & Social Impact  
YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles

Norma Fernandez, CEO  
EveryoneOn