



October 16, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 41 (Holden) Veto Decision

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California Alliance for Digital Equity (CADE) applauds your decision to veto Assembly Bill 41, the Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023 (DEVFA).

As you know, our alliance initially supported AB 41 to make overdue and much-needed reforms to Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act (DIVCA), the 2006 law that eliminated all local input and control over cable franchises and vested the authority instead with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). However, we withdrew our support for AB 41 when the measure was drastically amended to make California franchise policy worse for communities and localities than it is today.

We were pleased to see some of our concerns about AB 41 echoed in [your October 8th veto letter](#) to the California State Assembly, in which you write that the bill “will not meaningfully increase digital equity in California” and “this bill does not go far enough” to reform DIVCA. CADE strongly agrees that there is more work to be done on DIVCA reform.

CADE is ready to serve as a partner next year in the effort to produce a more competitive, consumer-friendly, thriving market for broadband service. Our alliance hopes to support new legislation that builds upon SB 28 (2021) and makes meaningful changes that reshape DIVCA into a far more equitable state franchise process. DIVCA reforms that we currently support include updating the franchise application and renewal process, establishing enforceable equal access and anti-discrimination requirements, and empowering the CPUC to better regulate franchise holder activity across the State.

We thank you for your decision to veto AB 41, and recognize and appreciate that this decision reaffirms your commitment to increasing digital equity and closing the digital divide in California.

Sincerely,

California Alliance for Digital Equity

Partners include: California Community Foundation, NextGen California, Common Sense Media, Michelson Center for Public Policy, The Michelson 20MM Foundation, Media Alliance, Rural County Representatives of California, #OaklandUndivided, The Greenlining Institute, and The Children's Partnership