

1 **COMMITTEE:** **COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND**
2 **INTERSTATE COMMERCE**

3 **POLICY:** **NCSL SUPPORTS PUBLIC PRIVATE**
4 **PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE BROADBAND**
5 **INTERNET ADOPTION AND USE**

6 **TYPE:** **EXISTING RESOLUTION**

7 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC’s) National Broadband
8 Plan (the Plan) sets a goal of raising adoption rates to more than 90 percent by 2020;
9 and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the Plan cites survey research showing that Americans that do not have
12 broadband at home are disproportionately lower-income and older than average, and
13 only one third of such Americans have broadband at home; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, broadband adoption also lags among minority communities regardless of
16 income; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, among the factors cited as reasons why households may not subscribe to
19 broadband are affordability, including lack of computer hardware, lack of digital literacy
20 and lack of relevance; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, non-adopters citing a lack of digital literacy include people who are not
23 comfortable with computers or have concerns about online safety; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, non-adopters citing relevance do not believe digital content is sufficiently
26 compelling to justify subscribing to broadband; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, the Plan sets forth a host of recommendations to address these barriers
29 and to achieve the goal of 90+ percent adoption rates; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, there are currently two federal Universal Service programs, Lifeline
32 Assistance and Link-Up America, reserved for making phone service more affordable
33 for low-income households; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, among the Plan's recommendations is the expansion of these programs to
36 broadband; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, a number of the Plan's recommendations are directed at other federal
39 agencies that can increase broadband relevance by, for example offering more
40 government services online, and encouraging telework; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, the Plan recommends the creation of a Digital Literacy Corps, to help non-
43 adopters become more comfortable with technology; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, ultimately the Plan finds that increasing adoption requires a multi-faceted
46 approach to addressing barriers to adoption; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, the National Conference of State Legislatures believes that widespread
49 efforts to promote broadband adoption, use, and digital literacy are critical to improving
50 the nation's long-term competitiveness in a global market, and to achieving certain
51 socioeconomic improvements in the quality of American life; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, expanding adoption, use and digital literacy skills will allow a greater
54 number of Americans to fully take advantage of the benefits of broadband based
55 applications such as tele-health, energy management, education opportunities and
56 government services online; and

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58 **NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State
59 Legislatures calls upon all levels of governments to work cooperatively with the private
60 sector, nonprofits, and academia to create public-private partnerships to develop and
61 implement robust broadband awareness, adoption, and use programs; and

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63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be forwarded to members of
64 Congress, the Administration, and the relevant federal agencies implementing
65 broadband funding programs reviewing the adoption and use recommendations of the
66 Plan, including but not limited to the National Telecommunications and Information
67 Administration and the Rural Utilities Service. *Expires August 2015*