

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

3 **RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OF PUBLIC PRIVATE**
4 **PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE BROADBAND**
5 **INTERNET ADOPTION AND USE**

6 **TYPE: RESOLUTION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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