

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, among the over 94 percent of American households that have access to broadband  
8 Internet services, only about 64 percent of U.S. households subscribe; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) National Broadband Plan (the  
11 Plan) sets a goal of raising adoption rates to more than 90 percent by 2020; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the Plan cites survey research showing that Americans that do not have broadband  
14 at home are disproportionately lower-income and older than average, and only one third of such  
15 Americans have broadband at home; and  
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17 WHEREAS, broadband adoption also lags among minority communities regardless of income;  
18 and  
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20 WHEREAS, among the factors cited as reasons why households may not subscribe to  
21 broadband are affordability, including lack of computer hardware, lack of digital literacy and lack  
22 of relevance; and  
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24 WHEREAS, non-adopters citing a lack of digital literacy include people who are not comfortable  
25 with computers or have concerns about online safety; and  
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27 WHEREAS, non-adopters citing relevance do not believe digital content is sufficiently  
28 compelling to justify subscribing to broadband; and  
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30 WHEREAS, the Plan sets forth a host of recommendations to address these barriers and to  
31 achieve the goal of 90+ percent adoption rates; and  
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33 WHEREAS, there are currently two federal Universal Service programs, Lifeline Assistance and  
34 Link-Up America, reserved for making phone service more affordable for low-income  
35 households; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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59 WHEREAS, in addition to the recommendations of the Plan, the broadband funding programs  
60 established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dedicate significant  
61 resources to promoting broadband awareness, adoption, use, and digital literacy.

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

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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Conference of State Legislatures calls upon the  
69 federal agencies distributing the broadband funding included in the ARRA to ensure that  
70 sufficient funds are allocated towards broadband awareness, adoption, use, and digital literacy  
71 programs; and,

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