June 15, 2019

Mayor Jenny Durkan

600 4th Ave

Seattle, WA 98104

We, the members of the city of Seattle’s volunteer Community Technology Advisory Board are writing to ask you to help us thank Senator Murray for introducing the Digital Equity Act of 2019 and to help promote action on this legislation.

The Digital Equity Act is an important initiative from the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA). NDIA brings together over 300 nonprofits, policy organizations and representatives from academia to advocate for access to broadband and to promote ways to overcome digital divides. The NDIA presents a unified voice for home broadband access, public broadband access, personal devices and local technology training and support programs.

The Digital Equity Act establishes federal definitions of digital equity and digital inclusion. Definitions of these important concepts create a framework to help advocates, members of the public, policymakers, as well as representatives from industry advance the many conversations needed to realize the goals of this legislation.

* Digital Equity is “the conditions in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed to fully participate in American society and the economy”
* Digital Inclusion is “the activities necessary to ensure that individuals have full access to and use of affordable information and communication technologies, including reliable broadband internet service; internet-enabled devices that meet the individual’s needs of the user; access to digital literacy training; and the applications and online content that enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration.”

The Digital Equity Act both funds grants to states to set up plans to promote digital equity and provides funds other entities can use to develop and implement digital equity efforts. We at CTAB appreciate that the legislation mandates that at least 5% of the funds be made available to tribal entities. CTAB also appreciates that the legislation says that no more than 5% of funds can be applied to administrative costs for projects which apply for funds provided for in this legislation.

Organizations that have signed on in support of this legislation include the American Library Association, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, the Center for media Justice, the National Hispanic Media Justice Coalition, the Rural Telecommunications Congress, the Schools, Health, and Libraries Broadband Coalition

For important data about broadband access by Congressional district as well as a complete list of organizations that have already signed on in support of this legislation, please see <https://www.digitalequityact.org/>.

For further example text in support of the Digital Equity Act from the Center for Post- Secondary and Economic Success See <https://www.clasp.org/blog/support-digital-equity-act-2019>.

We encourage you to support action on this legislation:

* Promote the legislation with peer elected officials. Ask that they ask federal legislators in their states to sign on as co-sponsors
* Help us publicize the legislation with citizen advocacy bodies comparable to CTAB

Thank you very much for your time and for action to help advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

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| **Digital Equity Committee Volunteers**  John Krull, Co-Chair  Karia Wong, Co-Chair  Dorene Corwell  Dan Mouton  Kristen Hoffman  Mary Christensen  Abbe Blank  Liz Gruchala-Gilbert  Richie Gamiño | **Community Technology Advisory Board**  Steven Maheshwary, CTAB Chair  Charlotte Lunday, CTAB Co-Vice Chair  Torgie Madison, CTAB Co-Vice Chair  Smriti Chandashekar, CTAB Member  Mark DeLoura, CTAB Member  John Krull, CTAB Education Member  Karia Wong, CTAB Member |

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