



March 24, 2023

The Honorable Tasha Boerner Horvath
Chair, Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance
1021 O Street, Suite 4150
Sacramento CA 94249-0066

RE: Assembly Bill 286 (Wood) Broadband infrastructure mapping - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Boerner Horvath,

The undersigned organizations strongly support AB 286 (Wood), which improves the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) statewide broadband map by increasing transparency, granularity, and accuracy for household broadband service data.

There are significant [disparities in broadband adoption across California](#), and to thrive in modern society, California's families need affordable, high-quality internet service. Unfortunately, the patchwork of varying broadband access and internet speeds across our state disproportionately affects rural, tribal, and low-income communities. This practice, referred to as "digital redlining," demonstrates the need for greater transparency from the internet service providers (ISPs) we have trusted to serve our communities.

Unfortunately, mapping efforts at the federal and state levels have suffered without timely, accurate [data from ISPs on their service areas](#). Consistent misrepresentation of service to unserved and underserved communities further ingrains historical redlining and disincentivizes investment in these communities, which is more critical than ever before as [federal funding begins to be allocated](#).

AB 286 would empower households to refute speeds or technology that ISPs claim to provide to their address as well as submit their own data on internet service speeds, pricing, access to providers, and more. More

granular data in the statewide map like this will ensure state agencies have a better understanding of internet service offerings for unserved and underserved communities. Identifying these inequities is a critical step in addressing digital redlining and achieving universal internet access.

We strongly support policies and programs that ensure more Californians have access to high quality, affordable internet services. We also believe that internet access must be treated as a right for all Californians and not just a luxury for some. For the above reasons, we respectfully request your “Aye” vote on AB 286.

Sincerely,

Kami Peer, State Policy Associate
Common Sense Media

Shayna Englin, Director Digital Equity Initiative
California Community Foundation

Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director
NextGen California

Tracy Rosenberg, Executive Director
Media Alliance

Jason Foster, President & COO
Destination Crenshaw

Dan Nieman, Vice President, External Affairs
Para Los Niños

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

Geoffrey Baum, Executive Director
Michelson Center for Public Policy

Patrick Messac, Director
#OaklandUndivided

Lawrence Fondation, Executive Director
United Parents and Students (UPAS)

Hannah Gravette, Regional VP
Innovate Public Schools

Maddie Ribble
Policy Director, Social Drivers of Health
The Children's Partnership

Paola Schenkelberg, MSW
External Affairs Director
Communities In Schools of Los Angeles (CISLA)

Brandon Forester
National Organizer for Internet Rights
MediaJustice and the MediaJustice Network

Mario Valenzuela, Senior Vice President
Equity, Inclusion, & Social Impact
YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles