

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.275

Rep. Lasinski offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to ensure that all Americans have internet access necessary to
3 participate in telemedicine, distance learning, and telework as
4 part of any legislation that provides relief and recovery resources
5 related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

6 Whereas, The spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has
7 resulted in a global pandemic spreading across 213 countries,
8 areas, and territories, including the United States; and

9 Whereas, To combat the rapid dispersion of the virus, drastic
10 measures have been taken in Michigan and other states, including
11 orders requiring residents to stay at home. For many of us, this
12 means taking our daily activities – school, work, and medical care
13 – online; and



Whereas, Affordable and reliable internet access is fundamental to full participation in education, work, and health care in everyday life, but it is even more urgently needed during this health crisis. Yet 37 percent of Michigan residents do not have access to high speed broadband internet and in some rural counties this number exceeds 90 percent. Disparities in home internet access exacerbates existing gaps in educational, economic, and health outcomes for disadvantaged individuals and families; and

Whereas, The closure of many schools across the nation due to COVID-19 and the transition to online learning makes it crystal clear that access to the internet is an absolute requirement to continued education in the United States. Yet, over 9,000,000 children across the country do not currently have any internet access; and

Whereas, Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, accessing health care in person carries risks for some individuals. Yet, lack of internet access makes it impossible for many Americans to participate in telemedicine opportunities with their doctors. This lack of internet access is increasing healthcare disparities in the nation; and

Whereas, Providing state and local governments with adequate funding and increasing funding support of the Federal Communications Commission will ensure that all students, employees, and those seeking medical care are able to participate equally in necessary, online activities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to ensure that all Americans have internet access necessary to participate in telemedicine, distance learning, and telework as part of any legislation that provides



1 relief and recovery resources related to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
2 be it further

3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
5 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
6 congressional delegation.