

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.113

Senators Bayer, Moss, Brinks, Polehanki and Irwin offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to fully fund affordable and consistent internet access for all
3 communities and households across the state of Michigan and the
4 entire country.

5 Whereas, The spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has
6 resulted in a global pandemic spreading across 213 countries,
7 areas, and territories, including the United States; and

8 Whereas, To combat the rapid dispersion of the virus, drastic
9 measures have been taken in Michigan, including issuing an order
10 for residents to stay at home. For many of us, this means taking
11 our daily activities – school, work, and medical care – online; and

12 Whereas, Affordable and consistent internet access is

1 fundamental to full participation in education, work, and health
2 care in everyday life, but it is even more urgently needed during
3 this pandemic crisis. Without affordable and consistent internet
4 access, individuals and families across the state are at an
5 educational and economic disadvantage compared to those with
6 access; and

7 Whereas, The forced closure of all Michigan school buildings
8 due to COVID-19 and the transition to online learning makes it
9 crystal clear that access to the internet is an absolute
10 requirement to continued education in Michigan. Yet, over 500,000
11 Michigan students do not currently have any internet service; and

12 Whereas, Under the stay-at-home order, accessing health care
13 in person is discouraged and possibly even detrimental to an
14 individual's health. Yet, lack of internet access makes it
15 impossible for many Michigan residents to participate in
16 telemedicine opportunities with their doctors. This lack of
17 internet access is increasing healthcare disparities in the state;
18 and

19 Whereas, The internet is an important and ever-increasing
20 source of information and has become more essential in providing a
21 means for Americans to connect with work, school, and health care.
22 Ensuring that all Americans have access to broadband services at
23 speeds they need to fully participate in our society is imperative;
24 now, therefore, be it

25 Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of
26 the United States to fully fund affordable and consistent internet
27 access for all communities and households across the state of
28 Michigan and the entire country; and be it further

29 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

1 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
2 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
3 congressional delegation.