

NEWYORK
STATE
LEGISLATURE



ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of those not served by high-speed broadband who are writing, calling and emailing our offices each day, we are asking that you sign into law the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act (A.6679/S.8805). The legislation, which passed the Assembly and Senate with overwhelming support in July 2020, would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to study the availability, affordability, and reliability of high-speed internet and broadband access in New York State, and produce a detailed access map on its website indicating internet service by location.

Universal access to high-speed broadband was promised to all New Yorkers in 2015. To date this unrealized promise has caused incredible frustration for those needing and anticipating access only to be stuck on the wrong side of the digital divide for far too long. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the enormous disadvantage of a technological inequality that affects many students, families, businesses, and those needing telehealth, daily.

Although hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent to help close the digital divide, the job is not done. Critical to achieving the goal of universal access is acknowledging the gaps in service that exist today. This legislation would direct the PSC to conduct the comprehensive study needed to identify, in highly granular detail, where access is lacking. It would empower the PSC to hold at least four regional public hearings to engage communities, local officials and Internet Service Providers to participate in solving the problem.

Signing this law today would put in motion the analysis desperately needed to help address this critical issue. As we begin to map out a strategy and direct resources to revive a post-COVID economy, we implore you to make good on fulfilling the promise of access to high-speed broadband for all.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Daniel G. Stec in black ink.

Daniel G. Stec
Senator, 45th District

Handwritten signature of Robert J. Smullen in black ink.

Robert Smullen
Assemblyman, 118th District

Handwritten signature of Carrie Woerner in black ink.

Carrie Woerner
Assemblywoman, 113th District

Handwritten signature of Billy Jones in black ink.

Billy Jones
Assemblyman, 115th District

Handwritten signature of Matt Simpson in black ink.

Matt Simpson
Assemblyman, 114th District