



The ACCESS BROADBAND Act

116th Congress

House Sponsors: Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Susan Brooks (R-IN)

Senate Sponsors: Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Doug Jones (D-AL) and Ron Johnson (R-WI)

"Broadband access can mean the difference between success and failure for students, job candidates, health providers, entrepreneurs and countless others. Working together, we can make sure more American communities get the access they need to learn, work and thrive."

❖ **Paul Tonko & Susan Brooks**

Access to High Speed Internet is Essential

- **Students, teachers, doctors and nurses, entrepreneurs and countless others** across many professions rely on Internet access for work and to communicate with peers and loved ones
- **2.3 million students** in grades K-12 across **more than a quarter of U.S. school districts still lack access to broadband** at federal baseline target speeds
- Nearly **1 in 4 rural Americans don't have access** to fixed 25 Mbps/3Mbps broadband

Widespread Economic & Social Benefits

- Broadband networks provide **more efficient and less costly ways to deliver essential public services** like health care, education, public safety and emergency services
- A **World Bank** study of 25 countries found that a **10% increase** in fixed broadband expansion caused in an average **increase of more than 3% in per capita GDP**
- \$10 billion invested in new broadband networks **would support nearly 500,000 new or retained jobs** in the U.S. ([ITIF](#))

Congress Can Do Better!

- The processes for pursuing and managing federal broadband resources span multiple agencies
- Without a streamlined system, these resources are uncoordinated and can be difficult to track
- Current investments are made with little accountability and oversight on behalf of taxpayers
- Many local communities and small businesses are not vying for the available funding

The ACCESS BROADBAND Act

- Stands for **Advancing Critical Connectivity Expands Service, Small Businesses Resources, Opportunities, Access, and Data Based on Assessed Need and Demand**
- **Establishes an Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth** at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), **which already has the necessary infrastructure, resources and staff to oversee and track broadband funding across agencies.**
 - Directs this office to simplify access for small businesses and local communities, possibly including small business workshops and other support resources.
 - Streamlines process for small businesses & local governments to apply for federal broadband assistance; improves coordination across government and the private sector.

Gaps in Broadband access exist in every state and nearly every Congressional district. Support broadband expansion and better federal coordination with the ACCESS BROADBAND Act today!

Connect with Representative Tonko on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @RepPaulTonko