

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2021

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Office of the Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

RE: HUD Coordination with the FCC on Broadband Data

Dear Secretary Fudge,

Thank you for your work fighting on behalf of our marginalized neighbors throughout your career. We write to encourage the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to work with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help provide all Americans with accessible broadband, particularly for our neighbors who reside in public housing. We have been concerned about the consequences to students and families who lack home internet connections, and the coronavirus pandemic made it clear that we must do all that we can to achieve universal, affordable, high-speed broadband for all.

There are several compelling reasons to make this a priority. Studies have shown that middle and high school students without home internet have worse educational outcomes compared to students with home internet access.^[1] Internet availability facilitates telehealth applications, allowing for better health outcomes.^[2] Internet access has also been shown to boost individual and community economic prosperity and improve social outcomes.^[3]

As you may know, the FCC is currently in the process of creating detailed broadband data maps, as required by the Broadband DATA Act, enacted last year.^[4] These detailed maps will show, on a location-by-location basis, whether and what kind of internet service is available to each residence, school, or business across the country.

During this process it is critical for the FCC to include all Americans, but we are concerned that our neighbors in public housing may get overlooked. The Commission needs to fully understand the state of broadband availability and access in public housing.

Because of our longstanding support for folks living in public housing, we urge HUD to work with the FCC to ensure that public housing and the broadband availability in such residences

^[1] Hampton, K. N., Fernandez, L., Robertson, C. T., & Bauer, J. M., *Broadband and Student Performance Gaps*, James H. and Mary B. Quello Center, Michigan State University (2020) (available at www.quello.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Broadband_Gap_Quello_Report_MSU.pdf).

^[2] *Expanding Internet Access Improves Health Outcomes*, Gov Tech (May 2020) (available at www.govtech.com/network/expanding-internet-access-improves-health-outcomes.html)

^[3] Tomer, Adie, et al., *Digital Prosperity: How Broadband Can Deliver Health and Equity to All Communities*, Brookings Institution (Feb. 2020) (available at www.brookings.edu/research/digital-prosperity-how-broadband-can-deliver-health-and-equity-to-all-communities).

^[4] Broadband DATA Act, Pub. L. No. 116-130 (2020).

are reflected on these maps, including sharing relevant data to the fullest extent possible. It is crucial that we not leave behind these economically underserved Americans.

Sincerely,

_____/s/_____
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Jamaal Bowman
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Al Lawson
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Ed Case
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
André Carson
Member of Congress

_____/s/_____
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

CC: Jessica Rosenworcel, Acting Chairwoman, Federal Communications Commission