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April 12, 2024

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
California State Senate District 26  
1021 O Street, Ste. 7530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: SUPPORT, SB 1179 (Durazo) – Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act of 2024**

Dear Senator Durazo,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of SB 1179, which would require the California Department of Technology (CDT) to enter into a procurement contract only with a qualified Internet Service Provider (ISP) that offers affordable Internet service for eligible households. This bill also requires CDT to establish and meet goals to get all low-income households connected to the Internet as a pivotal strategy to achieve Digital Equity.

More than 5.8 million low-income households in California need affordable Internet service to have a lifeline to quality of life, public safety, and a better economic future. While California outperformed all other states by enrolling almost 3 million households in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), more than 2.8 million remain to be reached—most of who were not even aware of ACP according to the 2023 Statewide Digital Equity Survey.

Additionally, the ACP recently announced they are no longer accepting applications (effective February 7, 2024) without reauthorization funding by Congress. Thus, California needs a backstop and back-up plan to guarantee that there always will be affordable high-speed quality Internet service available to all residents. This is the last major pillar of policy to ensure Digital Equity as envisioned by the Legislature and Governor.

In short SB 1179 will ensure that low-income residents and disadvantaged communities across the state are not left behind in the 21st Century and have an affordable Internet service to get ahead and help grow the California economy. This bill is a common-sense policy which recognizes the right and authority of the State of California to require vendors receiving taxpayer funds to help achieve Digital Equity in the public interest.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support SB 1179.

Sincerely,

Mitch Mashburn, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Maria Elena Durazo

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**CC:**

Honorable Members, California State Senate

The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator

The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember

The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors

Tim Flanagan, Chief Information Officer, Solano County

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Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.