

# House Joint Memorial 6

Sponsored by Representative CLEM

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to set goals for universal and open access to Internet.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the growth of a free and open Internet has provided historic advances in the realms of democracy, free speech, communication, research and economic development; and

Whereas Americans are entitled to and require open, equal and impartial access to the Internet in order to secure the rights of free speech and assembly online, which are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Oregon; and

Whereas high-speed Internet access is necessary for homes, schools, hospitals and workplaces to create jobs and economic growth, to enable innovations in telemedicine, education, public safety and government services, to foster independence for individuals with disabilities and to strengthen democratic discourse and civic participation; and

Whereas in the United States, the country that invented the Internet, the rate at which the population has adopted and has access to the Internet has fallen from first to 16th among nations with Internet access; and

Whereas the United States alone among advanced nations does not have a national Internet policy; and

Whereas consumers in the United States pay more for slower transmission speeds than consumers in other advanced nations, and millions of Americans, especially in rural and low income areas, have no access to affordable, high-speed broadband Internet service; and

Whereas building high-speed, high-capacity networks to the maximum feasible extent will eliminate bandwidth scarcity and thereby promote an open Internet; and

Whereas Oregon and other United States consumers are entitled to and require open, unfettered access to the lawful Internet content of their choice without interference from any entity, public or private; now, therefore,

### **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, endorse local, state and national policies that promote affordable, high-speed broadband Internet access for all, with strong protections for consumers and the workers who build, maintain and service the networks; and be it further

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Resolved, That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, call on the United  
2 States government to pursue a national goal for universal Internet access; and be it further

3 Resolved, That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, in order to promote  
4 vigorous free speech, a vibrant business community and unfettered access to the Internet, support  
5 policies that:

6 (1) Preserve an open, neutral and interconnected Internet;

7 (2) Protect against degradations or blocking of websites or Internet content;

8 (3) Ensure consumer access to free electronic mail;

9 (4) Encourage extensive development of high-speed networks for all homes and businesses so  
10 that Americans can go to any site on the Internet and upload or download any lawful content; and

11 (5) Treat the Internet as a public utility; and be it further

12 Resolved, That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, urge the Congress  
13 of the United States to adopt legislation that ensures net neutrality; and be it further

14 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to  
15 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member  
16 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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