

February 1, 2022

To: Chair John Lively, Vice Chairs Jamie Cate and Jason Kropf, and Members of the Committee
From: Kathleen Brandon, Ashland, Oregon

I am writing in support of House Bill 4092 – Broadband Governance, Availability and Equity for Oregon.

As an educator, I acknowledge the importance of broadband internet for our students, teachers, parents and community, to provide technological support, resources and information to pursue educational goals. I saw firsthand, in my own teaching practice, and teaming experiences with other educators, that computer literacy, and access to broadband internet are invaluable for positive student outcomes across all subject areas. In my own pedagogy of social studies, I witnessed how teaching democracy and civics was enhanced by direct involvement with internet resources designed to facilitate citizenship literacy.

During this pandemic it has been crucial that all students have access to internet connection for online curriculum, socialization and home support, while maintaining relationships with their primary teachers. In the school environment, internet access is vital as an instructional tool and resource for the 21st century.

Underserved rural school districts that lack connectivity are handicapped from providing quality education. Oregon has the opportunity to facilitate and support this service whether it is Klamath Falls, or Portland. That is why I am supporting House Bill 4092, and hope you will also.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Brandon
Ashland, Oregon
AAUW Branch