



September 12, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Sign AB414 (Reyes): Digital Equity Bill of Rights

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom,

On behalf of the Digital Equity Coalition for Santa Barbara County, we are writing to urge you to sign the **Digital Equity Bill of Rights** (AB414 Reyes). Since 2022, the Santa Barbara Foundation has served as the primary convener of the Santa Barbara County-wide Digital Equity Coalition and has worked closely with the Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast to convene partners across sectors representing education and information services, health services, public housing, governance, and community resilience organizations.

The Digital Equity Coalition (DEC) strategically aligns resources, work efforts, and tools to close the digital divide across all communities in Santa Barbara County. The Coalition seeks to establish partnerships between organizations invested in creating equitable and sustainable living conditions for all. As part of a larger statewide and national conversation, the Coalition assesses and analyzes local actions and initiatives addressing the digital divide to coordinate with regional and statewide digital equity efforts.

Internet access is an essential service that everyone needs for daily living and public safety. The Digital Equity Bill of Rights will ensure that California remains a leader in the nation as a champion for digitally-disadvantaged communities and unconnected households in the quest for equal opportunities and economic justice.

The **Digital Equity Bill of Rights** is also an opportunity for greater state funding, as it aligns with California's Broadband for All efforts and the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP), which your Administration and the Legislature have demonstrated historical leadership on.

The Digital Equity Coalition for Santa Barbara County joins the organizations and individuals who have endorsed the **Digital Equity Bill of Rights**. We urge you to sign AB414. Your signature will ensure that your commitment to Digital Equity becomes the policy of California for all generations in the future. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

The Digital Equity Coalition and the following Coalition Partners:

Allan Hancock College
 American GI Forum Education Foundation
 Broadband Consortium Pacific Coast
 CommUnify
 Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center
 LEAP: Learn. Engage. Advocate. Partner.
 Partners in Education
 Santa Barbara County Adult & Aging Network
 Santa Barbara County Education Office
 Santa Barbara Foundation
 Santa Maria Valley Chamber
 Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People
 Transition House
 Women's Economic Ventures

