

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

County Administration
Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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April 29, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 743 (Bradford) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for Senate Bill 743 (Bradford), which establishes a grant program within the California Public Utilities Commission, which administers existing telecommunications service public purpose programs. This grant program will award funds for broadband adoption, digital literacy, and computer equipment in public housing communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequities in the ability of individuals and families to access the internet. Many low-income families, even in urban and suburban areas, have had little to no access to affordable, competitive home broadband service for years. This is particularly true in public housing projects.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform which includes the Economic Enhancement/Revenue Diversification plank under the job growth and economic vitality principle. In the plank it discusses support of technology infrastructure improvements, including broadband services and supports opportunities to increase economic vitality. SB 743 allows for public housing agencies to contract service agreements with internet providers to pay for internet services, which improves access to internet/broadband.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support SB 743. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Jasmine McGinty at 805-568-3108 or jmcginty@countyofsb.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Steven Bradford, Author
Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

Ashley Ames, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
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