

**BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS**

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

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June 30, 2021

The Honorable Assemblymember David Chiu  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development  
State Capitol, Room 4112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 743 (Bradford) - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Chiu:

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 [jmccginty@countyofsb.org](mailto:jmccginty@countyofsb.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg  
*Governmental Advocates, Inc.*

cc: The Honorable Steven Bradford, Author  
Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development

Sandra Nakagawa, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development  
Daniel Ballon and William Weber, Consultants, Assembly Republican Caucus  
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The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
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