

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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July 30, 2021

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 743 (Bradford) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for Senate Bill 743 (Bradford), which would require the Public Utilities Commission to establish a grant program to fund broadband adoption, digital literacy, and computer equipment for eligible publicly supported communities, low-income mobilehome parks, and farmworker housing. The bill would require the commission to award grants to eligible publicly supported communities, low-income mobilehome parks, and farmworker housing for the purpose of providing either one-time or both funding for computer equipment and to establish computer labs, and ongoing funding for broadband service and digital literacy programs.

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
 The Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
 Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
 Daniel Ballon and William Weber, Consultants, 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
 Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
 Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
 Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara Board of
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