

Memorandum of **SUPPORT**

Overturn the Net Neutrality Repeal

On behalf of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA), I am writing at this time to urge your support of Senate Joint Resolution 52 that would overturn the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) repeal of net neutrality protections, ensuring vital protections to all citizens' and schools' equal access to online information remain intact.

In New York State, access to the internet is not evenly distributed. We have 1.1 million people in our state with access to only one wired provider, leaving them no options to switch if they find that provider's offerings to be less than desirable or too costly. As representatives of New York's public school districts, this is greatly troubling. With many of our school districts not having restored programs that were cut during the Recession, a multi-billion dollar deficit looming over New York, and proposed cuts to key education funding at the Federal level, we need your support now more than ever.

Access to online educational resources helps school districts save money while exposing them to the most innovative and effective practices. Without protections from the Federal government, districts around our state will be vulnerable to the one or two internet service providers (ISPs) that control the online content they can access. These ISPs can choose to charge educational companies providing online resources to schools significantly more to deliver content, and those companies could in turn pass those costs on to schools. For the many regions in our state with no ISP competition, we fear these providers will prioritize online companies who can afford to pay more. For schools unable to afford the higher fees passed to them by smaller educational technology companies, innovation will stall. As a result, certain schools will have far superior access to information than others and widen the achievement gap even further than it is now. That is unacceptable.

We believe the government has a duty to protect its students. The FCC voted to abandon current regulatory practices that ensure all people, students, and school districts have equal access to online content regardless of where they are living or learning. Now is your chance to stand up for your constituents and their schools. The Congressional Review Act of 1996 establishes expedited procedures by which Congress may disapprove of regulatory rules issued by a Federal agency. With a simple majority vote in both the House and the Senate, you can pass the Congressional Resolution of Disapproval, S. J. Res. 52, and overturn the FCC's vote. Your students are counting on you. We urge you to take action now, for the sake of their futures.

For these reasons, NYSSBA strongly supports the passage of S. J. Res. 52 to overturn the FCC's vote to repeal critical net neutrality protections.