



July 7, 2025

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Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance  
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**Support SB716 (Durazo): California Home Internet LifeLine Act of 2025**

Dear Chair Tasha Boerner, Vice Chair Josh Hoover, and Members Patrick Ahrens, Mia Bonta, Jessica Caloza, Leticia Castillo, Josh Lowenthal, Chris Rogers, and Blanca Rubio:

On behalf of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), we urge you to pass SB716 (Durazo) to expand LifeLine support to a home Internet services. CETF is honored to support the leadership of Senator Durazo in the quest for Digital Equity to be the sponsor of SB716—a major missing piece of State policy required to close the Digital Divide. SB716 is a workable solution to affordable Internet service for low-income households and is vital for the future of California.

SB716 is the result of an intense Stakeholder Conversation process including more than 50 participants who met for 7 weeks (2 hours each). We underscore that all Stakeholders participated in good faith.

**SB716 provides an opportunity for the Legislature and Administration to seize a moment in time to jumpstart a truly groundbreaking program without any impact on the General Fund.**

The California Home Internet LifeLine Act of 2025 (Durazo SB716):

- Establishes the Universal LifeLine Home Internet Services Fund as a service Universal Service Program administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and supported by the existing access line fee authorized by the Legislature (there are 53.5M access lines in California which is a broad base of contributors in comparison to 19.6M income tax filers).
- Ensures consumer protections in return for Internet Services Providers (ISPs) receiving a public subsidy for their eligible customers choosing an affordable Internet Plan.
- Provides special considerations for small and rural ISPs and Tribal Lands.
- Retains the Legislature's control of program expenditures and, therefore, the access line fees, through the annual Budget Act.

CETF remains inspired by the late Honorable Gwen Moore, author of the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act of 1987—known today as LifeLine. She declared on June 25, 2020 in an affidavit in support of the CETF proposal for modernization of LifeLine, “In my mind, without question, it is time that the LifeLine program acknowledge the central role broadband plays in our economy and our society and enable disadvantaged, low-income communities to obtain this essential utility.”

On behalf of the California Emerging Technology Fund, we respectfully request your “aye” vote for SB716. Please do not give SB716 opponents without a viable solution to have a veto on Digital Equity for our most needy Californians. Now is the time to move forward to act in the public interest.

If you have any questions, please contact, Kyle O’Ryan, CETF Policy and Communications Director, at [Kyle.ORYan@CETFund.org](mailto:Kyle.ORYan@CETFund.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sunne Wright McPeak  
CETF President and CEO  
Director



Senator Richard Polanco  
Tres Es. Inc  
CETF Legislative Representative



Kyle O’Ryan  
CETF Policy and Communications



Marvin Pineda  
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