



September 7, 2020

Senate Communications and Technology Committee
Pennsylvania Senate

Re: House Bill 2348 (Causer)

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the 4,500 elected officials who govern the Commonwealth's public school districts, **the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) is writing to request your support for House Bill 2348**, which is scheduled to be considered by the Senate Communications and Technology Committee on Wednesday, September 9.

House Bill 2348 (Causer) would establish the "Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program", a competitive grant program administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. The program would provide financial assistance to eligible entities for projects that support the proliferation and availability of high-speed broadband service to unserved areas, particularly rural areas, in Pennsylvania.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the extreme connectivity disparities that hamper efforts to provide virtual education across the Commonwealth. Legislation with the potential to enhance connectivity in Pennsylvania, such as House Bill 2348, would help provide public schools and students with the tools to succeed not only during the pandemic, but also in the modern educational environment.

PSBA thanks Representative Causer for his leadership on this issue, and urges the Legislature to continue to make every effort to close the digital divide within our Commonwealth.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Jonathan D. Berger
Director of Government Affairs
Pennsylvania School Boards Association