



September 21, 2020

Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
Pennsylvania Senate

Re: Senate Bill 1112 (Phillips-Hill)

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 Senate Bill 1112 (Phillips-Hill)**, which is scheduled to be considered by the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee on Tuesday, September 22.

Senate Bill 1112 would modernize and streamline regulations applicable to telecommunications carriers by requiring the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to permanently waive certain outdated, costly, and unnecessary regulations which may stifle efforts to expand broadband access in the Commonwealth. The bill will further require the PUC to undertake a review of all regulations applicable to telecommunications carriers and rescind regulations that are no longer necessary or in the public interest.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the extreme connectivity disparities that hamper efforts to provide virtual education across Pennsylvania. Legislation with the potential to enhance connectivity in Pennsylvania, such as Senate Bill 1112, 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 Senator Phillips-Hill for her 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