



YOLO HEALTHY AGING ALLIANCE

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Invest in America HR 3684: SUPPORT broadband provisions

Dear Congressman Garamendi and Congresswoman Matsui,

We, as advocates and members of the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, are in support of the broadband funding in the Invest in America bill. As you know YHAA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist in enhancement and the well-being of older adults in Yolo County. We work to address gaps in services and connect people to the many resources and services in our county. During the pandemic the lack of broadband for some of our aging and rural community members prevented access to community care both medically and socially which affects safety. We support the 65 billion "Dig Once for Broadband" section 1603 in Title 1 Federal Aid to Highways when the Invest in America moves through the House.

According to the Yolo County Fact Sheet for Census 2020, 16.5% of Yolo county residents do not have a broadband subscription. There is low broadband penetration in Capay Valley, Esparto, Dunnigan and Knights landing. Some communities have internet service but it is unreliable. Even in Davis there is poor broadband availability and we have few but expensive options. Health care providers in rural Yolo County area connect to the California Telehealth Network for health care services but the connectivity is marginal. They have reported inability to access online health applications and support for patient care. There are bills in California that do address broadband infrastructure and the need to lower the cost of internet service for the community. The Invest in America does have provisions to work with state and community partners and to help lower costs with the Dig Once concept that would start about 12 months after enactment.

Sincerely,

Sheila A. Allen, RN, PhD
Executive Director

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