



# **State Connections**

**The broadband working group for state legislators**

**First Friday of Every Month**

**4:00 ET / 3:00 CT / 2:00 MT / 1:00 PT**

***WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!***

# Agenda



*Recording meeting*

## NCSL

- Summit Recap
- USF Resolution

## BEAD

- Initial Results
- How to Support your State?

## State Updates

- How can we help?
- Legislative Initiatives

# **NCSL – Legislative Summit**



*Janie Dunning, State Connections Coordinator*

## **Recap: NCSL 50th Legislative Summit, Aug 4-6 in Boston**

- Good attendance from State Connections
- Good one-on-one conversations
- Broadband panel ft. Rep. Ryu, Del. Linville, Janie Dunning, and others
- USF resolution passed

Thank you to NCSL and State Connections members!

# NCSL – USF Resolution

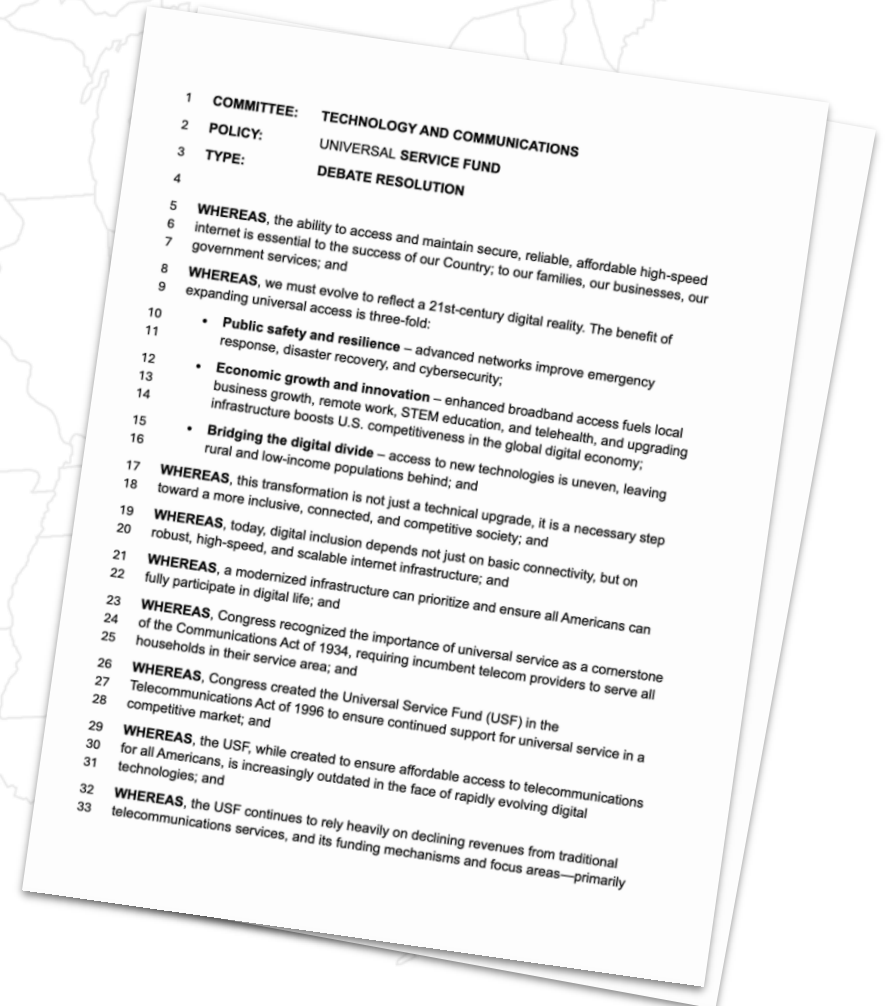
State Rep. Stacey Travers (AZ)

## Resolution

- USF is critical for public safety, resilience, economic growth, innovation, and closing the digital divide.
- NCSL urges Congress to modernize USF programs and funding system.

## Vote

- Adopted unanimously



# BEAD – Updates

*Gigi Sohn & Drew Garner – Benton Institute*

## BEAD Status

- All locations back on the table
- States redo programs with “tech neutral” + “lowest bid wins” rules
- Deadline Sep 4th

## Early Results – VA, LA, WV

- Fiber still main winner (so far). Satellite wins have increased.
- Costs are lower (maps have shrunk)
- Starlink aggressively challenging results

## Your State is Next!

- Most states will publish plans on or before next Thurs (8/28)

# BEAD – Advocacy

*Gigi Sohn & Drew Garner – Benton Institute*

## Why Your Support Matters

- Your broadband office is making key judgement calls
- But NTIA retains final say
- Broadband offices need stakeholder support

## The Letter Says

- Express support for the state's plan
- Call on NTIA to approve plan quickly



# State Updates



*What Can State Connections Do For You?*

## **Letter Templates**

- National & State
- Policy
- Support

## **Informational Speakers on Calls**

## **Individual Meetings**

## **Legislative Bills – Monitoring and Sharing**

# State Updates

## *State Legislation Updates*

### **Affordability/Adoption**

- New York: Affordable Broadband Act requires ISPs to offer low income plan at \$15 for 25 Mbps or \$20 for 200 Mbps
- Connecticut: Net Equality Program requires ISPs to offer low income plan at \$40 for 100 /5 Mbps increasing to 100/20 Mbps after 1 year
- More states with bills in committee (Vermont, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Maryland)

### **Permitting and Poles**

- Idaho: (H 180) addresses delays in the permitting process setting timeframes for cities or counties to approve, modify or deny applications. Also establishes that when public utilities and service providers cannot agree on terms for pole attachments, the commission will regulate the terms to ensure fair cost recovery for utilities.
- North Carolina: (H-125) updates Broadband Pole Replacement Program to streamline access, cost transparency, and reimbursement reporting.



# State Updates



## *State Legislation Updates*

### **Digital Equity Grant Program**

- Kansas Governor announced \$10.4 in Advancing Digital Opportunities to Connect Kansas (ADOPT) program to make public Wi-Fi accessible and distributing devices in underserved areas.

### **Broadband as Utility**

- Arkansas: (HB 1737) amends the Transmitting Utility Act to include fiber optic and broadband services in the definition of “transmitting utility” to encompass contemporary communication technologies.

# Contact Information



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