

Device Access for Every American Act

Internet connectivity and access to connected devices became essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced millions of Americans to shift to digital platforms for school, work, and other daily activities. However, many households still struggle to keep up with these responsibilities due to the lack of access to connected devices and the cost of acquiring them. While computer access is nearly ubiquitous amongst high-income households, <u>40% of low-income adults</u> lack a desktop or laptop computer. Additionally, 4.4 million households with students <u>lack consistent access to a computer</u>, making it difficult for these students to participate in class and complete schoolwork.

The **Device Access for Every American Act** would create a \$400 voucher for low-income Americans to purchase laptops and tablets to help close the digital divide and connecting millions of households. The legislation is introduced by U.S. Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock. The House companion legislation is led by Representative A. Donald McEachin.

This bill would:

- Create a \$400 device voucher for low-income Americans to purchase connected devices like laptops and tablets at retail locations;
- Permit up to two low-income individuals per household to receive a voucher, so families can receive multiple devices;
- Require the FCC to establish minimum standards for connected devices, including both new and refurbished devices; and
- Direct the FCC to collaborate with retailers, eligible individuals, and community-based organizations participating in the program.

This bill has been endorsed by Public Knowledge, National Digital Inclusion Alliance, National Hispanic Media Coalition, National Consumer Law Center, Common Sense, Digitunity, National Council on Aging, UnidosUS, Consumer Reports, Common Cause, Joint Center, Microsoft, Dell Technologies, HP, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), Tech Goes Home, Access Now, Together for Hope, Center for Rural Strategies, National League of Cities, Access Humboldt, KIPP Foundation, Higher Learning Advocates (HLA), and Chegg.