

Introduced by Senator Murray

May 26, 2000

Senate Resolution No. 29—Relative to closing the Digital Divide.

1 WHEREAS, California is the national leader in the use
2 of technology for the information age; and
3 WHEREAS, Computers and the Internet are
4 revolutionizing the ways people learn, communicate,
5 earn a living, and entertain themselves; and
6 WHEREAS, The Digital Divide is the term commonly
7 used to describe the gap between those who can afford
8 the computer hardware and software they need to access
9 the Internet at home and those who cannot; and
10 WHEREAS, The disparity created by the Digital
11 Divide establishes an impenetrable barrier to not only
12 quality jobs, but also educational opportunities and access
13 to information that all Americans will need in order to be
14 successful; and
15 WHEREAS, Although there has been a significant and
16 steady increase in low-income Americans' ownership and
17 use of computers and the Internet, the disparity
18 continues to expand between low-income and higher
19 income Americans; and
20 WHEREAS, Nationwide computer ownership among
21 households with children is now almost as common as
22 cable television subscriptions (42 percent), and Internet
23 access almost as common as newspaper subscriptions (26



1 percent), and these numbers are higher for California
2 households; and

3 WHEREAS, Although nationwide more than 50
4 percent of children in urban households earning more
5 than \$75,000 and 40 percent of two-parent households
6 have Internet access, only 11 percent of black, 12.6
7 percent of Latino, and 15 percent of female, single-parent
8 households have Internet access; and

9 WHEREAS, The technology gap is not simply a
10 reflection of choices made by an individual household,
11 but a reflection of a deeper problem of access to
12 infrastructure; and

13 WHEREAS, A concerted effort is needed to address the
14 children on the wrong side of the Digital Divide in
15 low-income areas; and

16 WHEREAS, Most parents and children view the
17 Internet as a positive force in children's lives and a
18 powerful tool for learning and communicating; and

19 WHEREAS, Home-based information technology is
20 the fastest growing part of the information superhighway;
21 now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That*
23 *the Senate of the State of California supports the goal*
24 *described by United States Secretary of Commerce*
25 *William Daley at the Digital Divide Summit: "A goal that*
26 *will close the gap ... may be a goal where we would have*
27 *a computer in every house like a chicken in every pot and*
28 *two cars in every garage ..."; and be it further*

29 *Resolved, That the State of California should provide*
30 *support, encouragement, and incentives to close the*
31 *Digital Divide through universal Internet access; and be*
32 *it further*

33 *Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit*
34 *copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate*
35 *distribution.*

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