

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2000

Senate Resolution

No. 29

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 have~~
10 ~~access to the computer hardware, software, education,~~
11 ~~training, and technical assistance needed to access and~~
12 ~~make use of the Internet at home and those who do not;~~
13 ~~and~~
14 WHEREAS, The disparity created by the Digital
15 Divide establishes ~~an~~ *a nearly* impenetrable barrier to not
16 only quality jobs, but also educational opportunities and
17 access to information that all Americans will need in
18 order to be successful; and
19 WHEREAS, Although there has been a significant and
20 steady increase in low-income Americans' ownership and
21 use of computers and the Internet, the disparity

1 ~~continues to expand~~ between low-income and higher
2 income Americans *continues to be large*; and

3 WHEREAS, Nationwide computer ownership among
4 households with children is now almost as common as
5 cable television subscriptions (42 percent), and Internet
6 access almost as common as newspaper subscriptions (26
7 percent), and these numbers are higher for California
8 households; and

9 WHEREAS, Although nationwide more than 50
10 percent of children in urban households earning more
11 than \$75,000 and 40 percent of two-parent households
12 have Internet access, only 11 percent of black, 12.6
13 percent of Latino, and 15 percent of female, single-parent
14 households have Internet access; and

15 WHEREAS, The technology gap is not simply a
16 reflection of choices made by an individual household,
17 but a reflection of a deeper problem of access to
18 infrastructure, *quality education, effective training, and*
19 *appropriate content and a growing income disparity*; and

20 WHEREAS, A concerted effort is needed to address the
21 children on the wrong side of the Digital Divide ~~in~~
22 ~~low-income areas~~; and

23 WHEREAS, Most parents and children view the
24 Internet as a positive force in children's lives and a
25 powerful tool for learning and communicating; ~~and~~

26 ~~WHEREAS, Home-based information technology is~~
27 ~~the fastest growing part of the information superhighway;~~
28 now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That
30 the Senate of the State of California supports the goal
31 described by United States Secretary of Commerce
32 William Daley at the Digital Divide Summit: "A goal that
33 will close the gap ... may be a goal where we would have
34 a computer in every house like a chicken in every pot and
35 two cars in every garage ..."; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the State of California should provide
37 support, encouragement, and incentives to close the
38 Digital Divide through ~~universal Internet access~~, *for*
39 *example, widespread Internet access, education, and*

1 *training at homes, schools, public places, and locally*
2 *accessible sites*; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
4 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate
5 distribution.

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