

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 5, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2000

Senate Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Senator Murray
(Coauthors: Senators Alarcon, Bowen, Hughes, Solis, and Vasconcellos)

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 have access
8 to the computer hardware, software, education, training,
9 and technical assistance needed to access and make use
10 of the Internet at home and those who do not; and

11 WHEREAS, The disparity created by the Digital
12 Divide establishes a nearly impenetrable barrier to not
13 only ~~quality—jobs~~ *opportunities for quality employment*,
14 but also educational opportunities and access to
15 information that all Americans will need in order to be
16 successful; and

17 WHEREAS, Although there has been a significant and
18 steady increase in low-income Americans' ownership and

1 use of computers and the Internet, the disparity between
2 low-income and higher income Americans continues to
3 be large; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, A concerted effort is needed to address the
22 children on the wrong side of the Digital Divide; 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; now,
26 therefore, be it

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

34 *Resolved*, That the State of California should provide
35 support, encouragement, and incentives to close the
36 Digital Divide through, for example, widespread
37 Internet access, education, and training at homes, schools,
38 public places, and locally accessible sites; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
2 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate
3 distribution.

O

