

Open Technology Institute at New America: “We commend Senator Lujan, Representative Matsui and the other co-sponsors for recognizing that without sustained investments in digital adoption and inclusion efforts at the community level, the huge new investments in broadband infrastructure and affordability won’t close the digital divide. A Digital Equity Foundation dedicated to this work and funded by future spectrum auctions, will provide a sustainable way to tackle this part of the digital divide.”

Michael Calabrese, Director, Wireless Future, Open Technology Institute at New America

Public Knowledge: “Digital literacy, digital skills training, and access to devices are barriers to broadband adoption for many people throughout the country. They are also challenges for which there is no long term funding. Sen. Lujan and Rep. Matsui's Digital Equity Foundation Act would address that omission in our broadband policy by funding local efforts to support schoolchildren, older adults, veterans and others who need devices and training so they have the essential tools needed to fully participate in our society. We thank Sen. Lujan and Rep. Matsui for their leadership on this effort and look forward to working to get the Digital Equity Foundation Act enacted this year.”

Greg Guice, Director of Government Affairs, Public Knowledge

NDIA: "NDIA is thrilled to celebrate the introduction of the Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2023 in person with 800 digital equity practitioners and champions at Net Inclusion 2023. As long as technology keeps changing and income disparities continue to exist, we will need sustainable digital inclusion programs. Spectrum auction revenue is a perfect sustainable funding source for Americans to gain and keep access to home internet, appropriate devices, and digital skills training."

Angela Siefer, Executive Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

American Library Association: “The Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2023 introduced by Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui would invest in often overlooked parts of the digital divide: the internet user and the trusted institutions that connect and empower users to fully participate online. Ongoing funding for digital literacy and inclusion must accompany basic access to the internet. The American Library Association is proud to support legislation that would allow libraries to do on a larger scale what they have always done: provide people access to the opportunities that the internet promises.”

Lessa Kanani‘opua Pelayo-Lozada, President, American Library Association

Common Sense Media: “We celebrate the announcement of The Digital Equity Foundation Act, an effort that would fund digital inclusion programs and affordable broadband access. The pandemic showed us that families need reliable, affordable high-speed internet service, devices, and ongoing digital inclusion support to work and learn, and marginalized communities are often the ones left without access. As we’ve seen recently, extreme weather and other disruptions to in-person learning has forced some schools to shift back to digital curriculum, making ongoing digital equity support crucial to keep all kids and families connected to learning. This effort ensures we are prepared to nimbly and effectively respond to future disruptions to in-person learning.

While we've made great progress with historic investments in broadband infrastructure and affordability, we need innovative policy solutions like The Digital Equity Foundation Act to maintain this progress toward closing digital divide. We applaud Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui for their leadership on this initiative."

Jim Steyer, Founder and CEO, Common Sense Media

National Hispanic Media Coalition: "Digital access and the ability to close the digital divide with creative solutions are fundamental to providing true parity for the Latino community. NHMC commends Senator Ben Ray Luján and Representative Doris Matsui for their diligent efforts to address these challenges by reintroducing the Digital Equity Foundation Act in the 118th Congress. Affordable and reliable internet access is a crucial component to the way we engage with the world and removing barriers will bring the Latino community towards achieving its full potential."

Brenda Victoria Castillo, President & CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition

The Philanthropication through Privatization (PtP) Initiative: "The PtP Initiative is excited by the introduction of the Digital Equity Foundation Act. When passed, the funds generated through the ensuing spectrum auctions will generate an endowment to be used to increase digital equity and inclusion in communities across the United States. Around the world, similar PtP initiatives have generated over \$200 billion in endowments that continue to benefit the communities that they serve in unique and sustainable ways, including over \$37 billion in the U.S. alone. We know that PtP's Founding Director, the late Dr. Lester M. Salamon of Johns Hopkins University, would be thrilled to see this proposed law embrace the application of the PtP concept to advance the important cause of digital equity and inclusion here at home."

Chelsea Newhouse, PtP Initiative, East-West Management Institute

The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition: "Spectrum is a public asset, so it only stands to reason that spectrum auction revenues should support the public interest. The SHLB Coalition applauds Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui and the other co-sponsors for introducing the Digital Equity Foundation Act, which would significantly increase our resources and capacity to address the digital divide. Most importantly, the bill recognizes anchor institutions as key agents for promoting digital equity, which is why SHLB hopes to see the bill progress quickly through the legislative process."

John Windhausen Jr., Executive Director, The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition

Center for Rural Strategies: "Investments in infrastructure that seek to make broadband more affordable and accessible in rural communities are not enough alone. The Digital Equity Foundation Act would provide ongoing and necessary support for rural families as technology shifts and changes and as the economy and services move online."

Whitney Kimball Coe, VP of National Programs, Center for Rural Strategies

NextGen California: "NextGen California applauds U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján (D - New Mexico) and U.S. Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D - Sacramento) for introducing the federal Digital Equity Foundation Act. This important piece of legislation will ensure that our nation makes significant investments in digital inclusion and digital equity programs, an often

overlooked aspect of the digital divide. Providing essential resources and tools to foster digital literacy and digital skills training will be key to making California more equitable and prosperous moving forward.”

Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director of NextGen California

United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry, Common Cause and National Consumer Law Center: “United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry, Common Cause and National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income consumers advocate for equitable, affordable broadband access as a civil right. Affordability is a significant barrier to broadband adoption and requires a permanent and sustainable funding solution. Other barriers persist including access to connected devices, digital skills training, and a lack of awareness about existing programs that help close the digital divide. These barriers disproportionately impact communities of color, low-income and other marginalized groups. The Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2023 establishes a foundation dedicated to supporting digital inclusion activities, which is important for communities who have historically been left behind in the digital age to achieve digital equity in order to meaningfully participate in our society, economy, and democracy. We look forward to continuing to work on long-term tools to address affordability.”

Cheryl Leanza, Policy Advisor, United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry

Yosef Getachew, Media and Democracy Program Director, Common Cause

Olivia Wein, Staff Attorney, National Consumer Law Center