



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 22 2024

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1383 without my signature.

This bill would limit the low-income communities that are eligible for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Public Housing Account (BPHA) program. Additionally, this bill would allow applicants to provide low-cost broadband service, instead of no-cost broadband service, and authorize the use of program funds for devices that enhance existing broadband services, such as broadband range extenders.

Though most low-income communities have access to broadband service for a fee, many families cannot afford even low-cost service offers. This is why in 2021, I signed Senate Bill 156, which revitalized the BPHA program by expanding eligibility for no-cost broadband service offerings to all low-income communities. This resulted in more investments in low-income communities the following year – and every year since – than the previous five years combined. This program is one of our state's essential tools for supporting digital equity and improving broadband affordability for the state's most disadvantaged communities.

While I support funding services and devices that enhance existing broadband service, modifying the BPHA program's eligibility and authorizing fees for the



provision of broadband service to low-income communities receiving a public grant through the program undermines its primary intent and purpose.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom