

April 27, 2023

Senator James Manning Jr., Chair  
Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

**Re: Support HB 3201-A**

Dear Chair Manning,

My name is Zoë Presley. My husband (Matt Presley) and I are residents of NW McNamee Road in unincorporated northwest Multnomah County, near the areas of Linnton and Burlington. I am writing to request your support of House Bill 3201-A.

High speed internet access is valuable to me personally and it is critical to my work. On a personal level, internet-based activities related to social engagement and entertainment are important aspects of how I can participate in my community. Professionally, as a provider of remote mental healthcare, reliable high speed internet is critical to providing the standard of care for my patients throughout Oregon.

Internet service at my home (where I work) is unstable (connections often dropped), slow (pixilated video, distorted audio), and fragile (connections lost or impossible during inclement weather power-loss). This significantly hinders my ability to provide healthcare and is unacceptable.

Internet challenges cause stress and frustration for my patients and myself on a daily basis. Poor video quality means that patients experiencing trauma, depression, anxiety and other mental health concerns are enduring technical challenges during their healthcare appointment which may interfere with their healing process. Additionally, I experience recurring agitation when video and audio streaming is interrupted. The result is that I am paying for streaming services that I am unable to access reliably. Along with many of my neighbors, I have been involved in consistent efforts over the past decade to pursue high-quality, reliable internet services.

In 2023, the status quo in Oregon is unacceptable. Fortunately, unprecedented federal funding is coming to Oregon to address these gaps in internet availability. This is our opportunity to equip Oregonians with fast, reliable, and affordable connectivity, for today and the future.

I am concerned that Oregon law constrains its own ability to use federal funding effectively and efficiently to solve these problems. It is essential that we adopt a future-thinking and modern framework, with standards set under the guidance of technology experts, to make this essential utility available to all Oregonians at a high quality and fair price.

It is also essential that the state adopts a transparent, accountable, and competitive process to ensure internet service providers leverage this federal broadband funding to the benefit of our communities.

House Bill 3201-A will enable Oregon to achieve these goals. I urge you to please pass House Bill 3201-A.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Zoë Presley, MA LPC