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THE DEVICE ACCESS FOR EVERY AMERICAN ACT OF 2021

Introduced by Rep. A. Donald McEachin (D-VA) and Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA)

Current endorsing organizations: Public Knowledge, National Digital Inclusion Alliance, National Hispanic Media Coalition, National Consumer Law Center, Common Sense, Digitunity, National Council on Aging, UnidosUS, Consumer Reports, Common Cause, Joint Center, Microsoft, Dell Technologies, HP, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), Tech Goes Home, Access Now, Together for Hope, Center for Rural Strategies, National League of Cities, Access Humboldt, and the KIPP Foundation

In our increasingly digital world, internet services and the devices to access them are quickly becoming essential to participate in our 21st century economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated this need and underscored the stark disparities that currently exist in our country. As millions of Americans migrated to virtual learning and teleworking, many households struggled to connect because a lack of or an insufficient number of connected devices.

Across the country, [more than 11% of American households](#) do not own a computer. While computer access is nearly ubiquitous for high-income households, [40% of households](#) making under \$30,000 a year lack a desktop or laptop computer. Furthermore, [1 in 3 African American and Hispanic households](#) lack access to computer in their homes—[twice](#) the number as White households. Most concerning, [4.4 million households with students](#) lack consistent access to a computer at home, with more than 9 million schoolchildren struggling to participate in class and complete schoolwork.

The Device Access for Every American Act creates a \$400 voucher to better help low-income Americans and families purchase laptops, tablets, and computers. This legislation would connect millions of households and help close the digital divide once and for all. The Senate companion is led by Senator Raphael Warnock.

The Device Access for Every American Act would:

- Create a \$400 device voucher for low-income Americans to purchase connected devices like laptops, tablets, and desktop computers;
- Permit low-income households to receive up to two vouchers for eligible individuals so families can receive multiple devices;
- Require the FCC to establish minimum standards for connected devices, including both new and refurbished devices; and
- Direct the FCC to collaborate with retailers, eligible individuals, and community-based organizations participating in the program to help individuals navigate and advertise the program to potential enrollees.



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