



**Testimony to House Utilities, Energy, and Telecommunications  
Supporting HB 1065 High speed internet service  
Given by Amy Carter, Policy Analyst  
January 24, 2018**

Good afternoon Chairman Ober and members of the committee.

I'm Amy Carter, policy analyst at the Indiana Institute for Working Families. We conduct research and promote public policy to help Hoosiers achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. With that description, you can see I'm not here to speak about the technical aspects of the bill, but I want to highlight the impact internet access has on those for whom we advocate.

Home internet access is increasingly essential for all Hoosier families, but it is particularly essential for those who are striving to achieve self-sufficiency and for adults who are striving to upskill. Our research has found that internet access is necessary to secure the kinds of credentials and degrees in demand by Indiana's employers, and for jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. We found only 8.5% of Indiana's adult students in post-secondary programs are able to attend without home internet access.

And while many adults lack internet access, this is especially true for low-income households. According to the 2016 Census:

- 20 percent of Hoosiers households statewide lacked an internet subscription.
- However, 38 percent of all households making less than \$35,000 per year don't have an internet subscription. That's a little less than the \$41,000 it takes for an average Indiana family of three to be self-sufficient. And that's over 300,000 low-income Hoosier households who are currently without access to the internet resources they'll need to gain the skills to compete in today's economy

Increasing affordable access to the internet for all Hoosier families is essential to ensuring they have opportunities to secure self-sufficiency and ensuring communities across Indiana can thrive. We're happy to offer data like this as you look at broadband access. Thank you.