



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

November 18, 2022

Dear Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee,

I humbly urge you to support FIS 22-404, to authorize the accept and expend of \$40 million for the Broadband Connect Program. This broadband expansion program is absolutely critical for the state to retain and attract workforce, businesses, telehealth, and other investment into the future.

This request mirrors FIS 22-247, which this committee approved for \$50 million in July. The result of that request is more than 23,000 additional locations will have access to high-speed, reliable internet. We expect proposals of similar scale and scope to be submitted before the end of the RFP process for this \$40 million round of funding.

The state and taxpayers are also getting the best bang for their buck under this type of proposal. Under the first round, New Hampshire is providing broadband infrastructure for one of the lowest costs in the nation – \$2,150 per location. Other states, especially in the Northeast, are not even close in comparison. For example, Massachusetts is spending more than \$9,000 per location.

New Hampshire isn't only doing this cost-effectively, but we are the most nimble and the quickest to get this funding out to start constructing this infrastructure. With supply chain and interest rate concerns, we need to continue to move quickly to ensure we beat other states to the punch and secure the materials necessary to construct these projects. Delay of this authorization until 2023 puts extreme risk into our ability as a state to fulfill the promise to our constituents of high speed and affordable broadband in our most vulnerable areas. Access to healthcare, education, and mental health services all rely on broadband and must be built out as soon as possible.

Again, I ask that you support the citizens who are counting on this broadband item today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor