

California Community Technology Policy Group

June 20, 2002

The Honorable Richard Polanco
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Polanco:

The California Community Technology Policy Group (CCTPG) supports your measure, SB 1563, which would explicitly add to the State's telecommunications policies the goal of bridging the Digital Divide.

The Digital Divide is very real in our state and is growing wider as low income, rural and disabled Californians fall behind in their access to the telecommunication structures that are, to a great extent, pushing California's economy forward. Access to technology means access to employment opportunities, to higher education and to interacting with the government and accessing the services it provides.

CCTPG shares your concerns about the Digital Divide and we commend your efforts to address it. Our group includes representatives from diverse community-based and statewide organizations located throughout California. Our goal is to advocate for policies that assure underserved communities reap the economic, educational, health, and civic benefits offered by computers, the Internet, and new digital innovations.

Our knowledge and expertise in the Digital Divide come from many years of on-the-ground experience providing access and opportunities to learn to use technology to tens of thousands of low-income residents across California. We use our experience in local communities to advocate for the most effective ways to direct resources to low-income communities so residents gain access to computers, the Internet, technology skills training, and the ability to use technology tools to meet life's daily needs.

We believe that your measure, SB 1563, would help to address the Digital Divide. Therefore, we support your bill. If you should have any questions, either call me at (909) 268-5975 or James Lau, with The Children's Partnership, at (310) 260-1220.

Yours truly,



Richard Chabran
Chair

Cc: Members of the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee

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