



LEADING EDUCATION INNOVATION

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**Keith R. Krueger, CAE**

*Chief Executive Officer, CoSN*

July 30, 2018

Dear California State Assembly Members,

As CEO of the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), I am writing in support of Senate Bill 822. CoSN urges you to support SB 822 in order to protect California school districts in light of the Federal Communications Commission's decision to eliminate its Net Neutrality regulations.

CoSN is the premier professional association for school system technology leaders. We work with school systems in California and around the country to meet the technology needs of over 13 million students nationally and the diverse education systems that serve them. California needs net neutrality protections to ensure its many school districts will not be exposed to higher costs, fewer innovations, and slower speeds, especially districts serving economically vulnerable rural and low-income communities that lack market choices.

CoSN's members share an unwavering commitment to expanding broadband access to unserved and under-served schools and communities, because they recognize broadband's power to promote educational equity. This includes using broadband to enable access to digital learning opportunities that otherwise may be unavailable to the students that need the greatest support. Unfortunately, the country's persistent educational achievement gaps often roughly overlay with community and regional broadband gaps. A recent U.S. Department of Education report, Student Access to Digital Learning Resources Outside the Classroom, showed that students living in remote rural and distant rural areas generally have more limited Internet access than students in suburbs, cities or towns. Notably, the report also showed that poor and minority children living in these areas were even less likely to have access to broadband.

Without Net Neutrality guardrails, California schools struggling to catch up to the digital transition may face higher digital content costs, preferential service fees, and less education technology innovation. If SB 822 passes, the bill would protect California school districts and prohibit state agencies from

contracting with an Internet service provider for the provision of broadband Internet access service unless that provider certifies under penalty of perjury that it is in full compliance with the requirements of this bill to promote Net Neutrality.

California students and teachers are counting on you to protect their district broadband connections. CoSN strongly urges you and your colleagues to restore Net Neutrality in California and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about our members' work and these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Krueger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keith" and last name "Krueger" clearly distinguishable.

Keith Krueger, CEO