Endorsements: Public Knowledge; Open Technology Institute at New America; The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition; National Digital Inclusion Alliance; American Library Association; Center for Rural Strategies; United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry, Common Cause, and National Consumer Law Center; National Hispanic Media Coalition; Common Sense; NextGen California.

Quotes:

“We commend Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui for recognizing that without sustained investments in digital adoption and inclusion efforts at the community level, the huge new investments in broadband infrastructure and affordability won’t close the digital divide. A Digital Equity Foundation dedicated to this work and, if possible, funded by future spectrum auctions, will provide a sustainable way to tackle this part of the digital divide.”

Open Technology Institute at New America: Michael Calabrese, Director, Wireless Future Project at New America

“Digital literacy, digital skills training, and access to devices -- these are some of the barriers to broadband adoption that Sen. Luján and Rep. Matsui’s Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2022 would address. This bill would use a portion of funds raised through spectrum auctions to fund resources at the local level to support schoolchildren, older adults, and others who need devices and training so that all generations have the essential tools to fully participate in our society. We thank Sen. Luján and Rep. Matsui for their leadership on this effort and look forward to working to get the Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2022 enacted this year.”

Greg Guice, Director of Government Affairs, Public Knowledge

"Spectrum is a public asset, so it only stands to reason that spectrum auction revenues should support the public interest. The SHLB Coalition applauds Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui for introducing the Digital Equity Foundation Act, which would significantly increase our resources and capacity to address the digital divide. Most importantly, the bill recognizes anchor institutions as key agents for promoting digital equity, which is why SHLB hopes to see the bill progress quickly through the legislative process."

John Windhausen Jr., Executive Director, The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition

"NDIA is thrilled with the introduction of the Foundation for Digital Equity. As long as technology keeps changing and income disparities continue to exist, we will struggle with digital inequities. The Foundation for Digital Equity provides a vehicle for a national coordinated solution that will bring us closer to all of our community members making the most of digital tools."

Angela Siefer, Executive Director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance

“The Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2022 introduced by Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui would invest in often overlooked parts of the digital divide: the internet user and the trusted institutions that connect and empower users to fully participate online. Ongoing funding for digital literacy and inclusion must accompany basic access to the internet. The American Library Association is proud to support legislation that would allow libraries to do on a larger scale what they have always done: provide people access to the opportunities that the internet promises.”

Lessa Kananiʻopua Pelayo-Lozada, President, American Library Association

“Investments in infrastructure that seek to make broadband more affordable and accessible in rural communities are not enough alone. The Digital Equity Foundation Act would provide ongoing and necessary support for rural families as technology shifts and changes and as the economy and services move online.”

Whitney Kimball Coe, VP of National Programs, Center for Rural Strategies

“United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry, Common Cause and National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income consumers advocate for equitable, affordable broadband access as a civil right. Affordability is a significant barrier to broadband adoption and requires a permanent and sustainable funding solution and other barriers persist including access to connected devices, digital skills training, and a lack of awareness about existing programs that help close the digital divide. These barriers disproportionately impact communities of color, low-income and other marginalized groups. The Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2022 establishes a foundation dedicated to supporting digital inclusion activities, which is important for communities who have historically been left behind in the digital age to achieve digital equity in order to meaningfully participate in our society, economy, and democracy. We look forward to continuing to work on long-term tools to address affordability.”

Cheryl Leanza, Policy Advisor, United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry

Yosef Getachew, Media and Democracy Program Director, Common Cause

Olivia Wein, Staff Attorney, National Consumer Law Center

“NHMC commends Senator Ben Ray Luján and Representative Doris Matsui for introducing the Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2022. This legislation will create the Foundation for Digital Equity that will help address digital inequities by promoting outreach and partnerships with nonprofits and digital civil rights organizations to close the digital divide. With a third of Latine households lacking access to the internet, affordable and reliable internet access and digital literacy are essential for our communities to prosper and become integral participants of our increasingly digital world.”

Brenda Victoria Castillo, President & CEO of the National Hispanic Media Coalition

“We celebrate the announcement of The Digital Equity Foundation Act, an effort that would fund digital inclusion programs and affordable broadband access. The pandemic showed us that families need reliable, affordable high-speed internet service, devices, and ongoing digital inclusion support to work and learn, and marginalized communities are often the ones left without access. As we’ve seen recently, extreme weather and other disruptions to in-person learning has forced some schools to shift back to digital curriculum, making ongoing digital equity support crucial to keep all kids and families connected to learning. This effort ensures we are prepared to nimbly and effectively respond to future disruptions to in-person learning.

While we’ve made great progress with historic investments in broadband infrastructure and affordability, we need innovative policy solutions like the The Digital Equity Foundation Act to maintain this progress toward closing digital divide. We applaud Senator Lujan and Representative Matsui for their leadership on this initiative.”

Jim Steyer, Founder and CEO, Common Sense Media

“The pandemic clearly exposed the issues of digital equity and inclusion facing millions of Americans in communities all across our country. That is why NextGen California strongly supports the Airwaves for Equity initiative and the California State Assembly advanced HR 125 which urges Congress to pass this important legislative policy. We must take the actions necessary to provide a durable and long-lasting funding framework to ensure our nation closes the digital divide and addresses digital equity once and for all.”

- Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director, NextGen California