

June 30, 2025

TO:

Governor Josh Shapiro
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

CC:

Jennifer Selber, General Counsel
Jacob B. Boyer, Deputy General Counsel

Dear Governor Shapiro:

We, the undersigned group of 33 elected officials, together with dozens of organizations and concerned citizens, thank you for suing the Trump Administration over its illegal termination of congressionally appropriated funding.¹ We write to highlight a particular fund—the **\$2.75 billion Digital Equity Act Programs**—that was unlawfully terminated and which we hope you pursue in your legal challenge.

The Digital Equity Act was enacted in 2021 by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). It aims to provide funding to states, nonprofits, and companies to help Americans access the technology, skills, and support they need to fully participate in the modern digital world. Through the Digital Equity Act, the Commonwealth and its local stakeholders were set to receive roughly \$65,000,000.²

However, on May 8, President Trump posted on the Truth Social platform that he was “ending” the Digital Equity Act and calling it “UNCONSTITUTIONAL” and “ILLEGAL.” The next day, the Department of Commerce sent letters to states and awardees across the country announcing the termination of their grants. Those letters, as with the examples in your lawsuit, cited 2 C.F.R. § 200.340 as justification for the administration’s actions.

We believe that the only thing unconstitutional or illegal is the President attempting to unilaterally end a program—by a social media post, no less—that was authorized and funded by the bipartisan IIJA. This violates the separation of powers embedded in the Constitution and, specifically, the Appropriations clause, which gives Congress the exclusive power of the purse.

The importance of Digital Equity Act funding to Pennsylvania cannot be overstated. Nearly eighty percent of residents in our state would be eligible for support accessing the Internet, using computers, and developing the skills needed to succeed in the online

¹ [Multistate Lawsuit Challenging Trump Administration’s Illegal Attempts to Terminate Critical Federal Funding to States](#)

² [NDIA Digital Equity Act: Funding Per State and Territory](#)

economy and access health care, financial, and civic services.³ The opportunities Internet access enables make it less likely that individuals and families will be reliant on government assistance and save governments millions of dollars by making it easier and less costly to provide services to their residents.

Thank you for defending the rights of Pennsylvanians through this lawsuit. As Congress recognized, excluding vulnerable populations like veterans, older Americans, rural residents, the poor and disabled from the Internet denies them the ability to participate fully in society and the economy. There are few state interests more important than helping all residents thrive. Therefore, we urge you to challenge the President's illegal termination of the Digital Equity Act.

Sincerely,

State and Local Elected Leaders

Rep. Joe Ciresi (HD-146)
Majority Chair, House Communications & Technology Committee

Sen. Nick Miller (SD-14)
Democratic Chair, Senate Communications & Technology Committee

Sen. John I. Kane (SD-9)
Member, Senate Communications & Technology Committee

Mayor Ed Gainey
City of Pittsburgh

Rep. Peter Schweyer (HD-134)
Majority Chair, House Education Committee

Rep. Joseph Hohenstein (HD-177)
Member, Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities

Rep. Justin C. Fleming (HD-105)
Member, Children and Youth Committee

Rep. Ben Waxman (HD-182)
Member, House Communications & Technology Committee

Councilmember Mark F. Squilla
Philadelphia City Council, 1st District

Sen. Nikil Saval (SD-1)
Chair, Urban and Housing Affairs Committee

Councilmember Nicolas O'Rourke
*Philadelphia City Council, At-Large
Minority Whip, Working Families Party*

Councilmember Rue Landau
*Philadelphia City, At-Large
Chair, Technology and Information Services Committee*

³ [U.S. Census Bureau: Digital Equity Act Population Viewer](#)

Councilmember Cindy Bass
*Philadelphia City Council, 8th District
Deputy Majority Whip; Chair, Rules
Committee, Vice-Chair, Finance Committee*

Rep. Mary Louise Isaacson (HD-175)
Vice Chair, Policy Committee

Rep. Danilo Burgos (HD-197)
*Majority Chair, House Consumer
Protection, Technology & Utilities
Committee*

Rep. John C Inglis (HD-38)
*Member, House Communications &
Technology Committee*

Rep. Paul Takac (HD-82)
*Member, House Communications &
Technology Committee*

Rep. Tarik Khan (HD-194)
Member, Health Committee

Arvind Venkat, MD (HD-30)
Member, House Energy Committee

Aerion Abney (HD-19)
Member, House Appropriations Committee

Carolyn T. Comitta (SD-19)
*Minority Chair, Senate Environmental
Resources & Energy Committee*

Councilmember Nina Ahmad
*Philadelphia City Council, At-Large
Chair, Public Health and Human Services
Committee*

Art Haywood (SD-4)
*Minority Chair, Senate Health & Human
Services Committee*

County Executive Lamont G. McClure
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Christina Sappey (HD-158)
*Secretary, House Agriculture & Rural
Affairs Committee*

Lindsey M. Williams (SD-38)
*Minority Chair, Senate Education
Committee*

Councilmember Anthony Phillips, Ph.D.
*Philadelphia City Council, 9th District
Chair, Children & Youth Committee*

Kyle Mullins (HD-112)
*Vice Chair, House Appropriations
Committee*

Councilmember Kendra Brooks
*Philadelphia City Council, At-Large
Minority Leader, Working Families Party*

Dan Miller (HD-42)
Chair, House Committee on Committees

Councilmember Isaiah Thomas
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Majority Whip*

Brandon Markosek (HD-25)
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Organizations and Digital Equity Leaders

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