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Ohio Mayors Alliance Proponent Testimony  
**HOUSE BILL 13**

Ohio Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee, November 17, 2020

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities committee, on behalf of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of mayors in over two dozen of Ohio's largest cities and suburbs, I would like to submit this proponent testimony on Ohio House Bill 13, which would facilitate greater broadband expansion in our state through a competitive grant program and public-private partnership.

In the year 2020 and in the midst of a global pandemic, where many of our residents are confined to working from home, learning from home, and accessing telehealth services, unequal access to the internet means there are many Ohioans who are currently unable to participate in our state's economy. An estimate 700,000 Ohioans remain without access to reliable high-speed internet. Internet access may very well be key to the economic recovery of this state as we overcome and recover from this pandemic.

The Mayors' Partnership for Progress is a member of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, representing Southeast Ohio, where lack of internet access is an acute problem. We support them in their efforts to expand broadband in the region, but there are also areas in our urban and suburban cities without broadband access, often in already extremely underserved areas.

Thank you to Representatives Carfagna and O'Brien for working to craft this piece of legislation and to the members of the committee for considering this bill. We are happy to help address any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keary McCarthy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keary McCarthy  
Executive Director, Ohio Mayors Alliance  
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