



*Mission:*

EYEJ drives social justice reform by empowering young people to advocate for change.

*Vision:*

An equitable and inclusive world.

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**December 1st, 2020**  
**Sub. H. B. No. 13 Opponent Hearing**

Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

My name is Jothsna Sabbasani. I am a sophomore at Case Western Reserve University studying neuroscience and political science. At my time at Case, I felt as if I was sheltered. I was only aware of the issues on campus. However, I felt that this needed to change. Last summer, I wanted to open my eyes and see the reality beyond my campus. I joined EYEJ in hopes to delve deeper and understand the hurdles many of the Cleveland youth and their families were facing. Through my time at EYEJ, I educated myself about the digital divide and spoke to many families that were directly impacted by the digital divide. This was an impeccable venture that created a different perception of the world. Many families have explicitly stated their difficulties with technology and access to reliable technology. It is evident that technology provides a surplus of benefits from education to finding employment opportunities, but acknowledging the fact that many families do not have simple access to these benefits that you or I have was not acceptable. Everyone: every child, every adult deserves this access, now more than ever. Broadband is a right. I want the future generations to be well rounded and keep improving our society for the good. The only way this can occur is through getting equal broadband access to every individual, not just a selective few. By providing this simple access, so much

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change within our technological community could occur, Broadband needs to be accessible at the local level. Our future generations depend on it.

Sincerely,

Jothsna Sabbasani

EYEJ Youth Council Policy Lead

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Address: 2529 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113  
Tel. No.: (216) 200-7042

hello@eyej.org  
www.eyej.org