



Mission:

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

Vision:

An equitable and inclusive world.

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

Bill HB 13 NEG

As we stand here today to debate this piece of legislation, HB 13. We are starting to forget the true issue we are trying to provide a solution to. Firsthand, I have seen the impact that the digital divide has on students all over Ohio. I've seen this at inner city CMSD schools but also my own school as well, Hathaway Brown. Although I attend a private school, the impact on those without internet is clear.

This Bill does not just affect inner city schools

- Eric gordon
- This bill targets rural areas
 - Don't get me wrong they are affected by it
 - But so are cities like CLE, Columbus, Cincinnati
 - *National Digital Inclusion Alliance*, a Columbus-based group

advocating for better connectivity for all, used census data to rank the worst ranked cities of connectivity, CLE, Columbus and Cincinnati are among many, on the top of that list.

- *(PennState Research)* The global digital divide also contributes to the inequality of access to goods and services available through technology. Computers and the Internet provide users with improved education, which can lead to higher wages; the people living in nations with limited access are therefore disadvantaged.

EYEJ



Youth
Council



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- Digital divide impacts everyone
- Not just online students
- If we were to reform this bill - create more job opportunity with higher access to education - contribute to economy
- Fixing the digital divide would be good for everyone. Not just the students affected by lack of internet access

Undermining democracy as a whole

- The recent scandal involving utility executives and public officials in Ohio reveals what can happen when too much economic power is concentrated in the hands of massive companies and monopoly utilities.

- Companies like FirstEnergy can use their excessive economic power to dominate regulators and legislators — and undermine democracy in the process. Unfortunately, these systemic problems are also weighing down Ohio's efforts to meaningfully expand access to high-quality broadband across the state.

- Need to work with big companies instead of against them.
- Small companies (Columbus foundation, ofc EYEJ)
- Importance is we cannot compromise democracy and sway political power because of economic virtue

Sincerely,

Yumi Ndhlovu
