



**Chad Wilson**  
Associate Vice President  
Office of the Chief Legal Officer | Government Relations

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Scott Oelslager and Jamie Callender  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Re: HB 13 (Carfagna, O'Brien) To Establish Residential Broadband Expansion Program**

Dear Chairmen Oelslager and Callender,

On behalf of Nationwide, please support passage of HB 13, which will establish a residential broadband expansion program. Founded in 1926, Nationwide is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio and is proud to provide thousands of jobs in the state and 1.25 million policies to Ohio residents, including being the number one writer of farms and ranches and small businesses. Our mission is simple, we exist to protect people, businesses and futures with extraordinary care.

As Nationwide continues to be at the forefront of the future direction of insurance and financial services, we know that leveraging technology to drive efficiencies and deliver the digital experience expected by our members and partners will only increase. Maybe no time has further exacerbated the need for broadband access than the current. As we shifted 98% of our associate base to working from home during COVID-19, with approximately 25% on a permanent basis going forward, we know that internet access is critical.

Access to broadband is critical for the development of technology, enhancement of educational opportunities, healthcare, and growth in commerce. As the bill sponsors noted in their testimony, upwards of one million Ohioans lack broadband access due to where they reside. Nationwide supports HB 13 as it will help boost access to broadband services in rural and underserved areas. Again, thank you for your consideration to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Chad Wilson  
Associate Vice President, Government Relations  
Nationwide

Cc: Representative Carfagna, Representative O'Brien, Ohio House of Representatives  
Finance Committee