

Testimony of Bill Levis, AARP Volunteer Legislative Advocate
Hearing on HB22-1306
Before House Transportation & Local Government Committee
April 5, 2022, 1:30 PM

AARP Colorado supports HB22-1306, a bipartisan bill relating to broadband deployment grant processes that should increase access to broadband in the state.

It is AARP policy (AARP Policy Book 2021-22, Chapter 12-Utilities) that everyone should have affordable and reliable high-speed internet access in the home, regardless of such factors as geography, race, ethnicity, income, age, and ability level. This includes people living in underserved communities where high-speed internet is not deployed, as well as those who cannot afford service where it is available.

Policymakers and the private sector should ensure universal deployment of reliable high-speed internet infrastructure. This includes underserved areas, such as rural areas and low-income communities.

This bill should help policymakers and the private sector actively work to narrow the significant gaps in adoption of high-speed internet. This includes the digital divide among older adults, people of color, people with disabilities, people with low and moderate incomes, and residents of tribal areas.

Thank you.