

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of**

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Member Jerry McNerney

Hearing on “Broadband Equity: Addressing Disparities in Access and Affordability”

May 6, 2021

I thank the Chairman for yielding. I represent an area that is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse areas in the region. It's also one of the most low-income areas in the region.

Far too many of my constituents are struggling to get by. Not having broadband service at home has set them even further back in today's world.

Even for my constituents who live in areas where broadband has been deployed, many simply can't afford the service. There are many who also don't have the necessary digital skills to get ahead or even get by. And this isn't the case for just my district, it's the case for many communities around the country.

There is a wealth of opportunities that these individuals could tap into if we are able to close the gaps in broadband adoption and invest in digital skills and digital literacy training.

That's why I've introduced the Digital Equity Act. I'm pleased that the bill was included in the LIFT Act and I hope that we will move quickly to pass the critical bill.

I yield back.