

Home Internet Accessibility Act

The **Home Internet Accessibility Act** directs GAO to conduct a study on broadband access gaps in federally assisted housing, then requires HUD to analyze those findings and submit policy recommendations to Congress. It's a targeted, two-step approach: first get the data, then use it to drive solutions.

Why It Matters

Millions of Americans still lack reliable home internet and the consequences reach into every part of daily life, from kids doing homework to adults applying for jobs to seniors accessing telehealth. Federally assisted housing is home to some of the most underserved communities in the country, yet we don't have a comprehensive picture of where the gaps are or how deep they run. Before we can close the digital divide, we need to know exactly where it exists. This bill makes that possible.

By the numbers:

- Roughly 35 percent of households with school-age children earning under \$30,000 a year lack high-speed internet at home. This is a disparity known as the "homework gap" that puts low-income students at a direct disadvantage.^[1]
- Using telehealth for routine, non-urgent visits can save patients an average of \$93 per appointment. This is savings that is out of reach for families without reliable home internet.^[2]

Endorsing Organizations: American Library Association, LeadingAge, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, National Affordable Housing Management Association

[1] <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/03/16/as-schools-close-due-to-the-coronavirus-some-u-s-students-face-a-digital-homework-gap/>

[2] <https://progresschamber.org/insights/low-income-americans-will-take-a-20-billion-hit-when-the-affordable-connectivity-program-expires/>