



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Resolution for Children's Low-Cost Laptops

WHEREAS, The personal computer is an indispensable 21st century learning tool; and

WHEREAS, The decreasing cost of technology makes it possible today to equip every child with a portable, personal computer; and

WHEREAS, Low-Cost laptops are indeed "21st century textbooks" for their capacity to store thousands of books; and

WHEREAS, Computer technology has been shown to improve academic performance, attendance and enthusiasm in American classrooms; and

WHEREAS, According to a survey by the November 2007 Pew Internet & American Life Project, a quarter of Americans do not have computers at home, and

WHEREAS, The "digital divide" most sharply impacts the poor, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, residents of rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Attaining universal access to communication technology is a goal spelled out in the 1996 Telecommunications Act; and

WHEREAS, A nationwide push among state leaders to equip children with laptops promises to fuel a new generation of math, science and technology innovators; and

WHEREAS, Computer proficiency is increasingly required by employers and institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, Previous technology-focused federal efforts, like the Technology Opportunities Program and E-Rate, resulted in newfound information and communication access for millions of students and thousands of schools;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the National Lieutenant Governors Association urges the President, Congress and the Department of Education to harness the power of technology to boost American productivity and performance by consulting with state legislatures, education and computer organizations to ensure every American schoolchild has access to a Low-Cost laptop; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the National Lieutenant Governors Association urges the President and Congress to modernize learning by encouraging affordable low-cost laptops for children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the U.S. Senate, and that NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in StateNews magazine, and that NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected officials, and other interested parties.

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