



## Fact Sheet

### The Broadband Resiliency, Public Safety and Quality Act

#### The Problem: Digital Divide + Lack of Accountability

- Competition has not ensured universal, affordable, reliable service.
  - 44M households lack access to a broadband connection at 25/3Mbps speeds -- 36% of households.
- Broadband access and adoption is stratified by class and race
  - Households subscribed to home broadband in 2019:
    - Race: White (79%), Black (66%), Hispanic (61%)
    - Income: \$75K+ (92%), \$50-75K (87%), \$30-50K (72%), <\$30K (56%)
  - ISPs upgrade infrastructure where it is most profitable
    - In AT&T's 21-state footprint, households with fiber available have median income 34 percent higher than those with DSL only.
- Deregulation has left consumers & workers unprotected
  - Industry driven deregulation of POTS/copper networks and non-regulation of broadband networks have left residents with no watch dogs over essential communication services.

#### Model Bill

1. Undo any blanket prohibition on state oversight for broadband/VoIP
2. Explicitly authorize PUC to exercise oversight over broadband/VoIP
3. Direct PUC to exercise authority over broadband/VoIP in specific areas
  - Resiliency, Public Safety, Data Collection/Transparency, and Consumer Protection
4. Authorize PUC to conduct third-party audits of facilities and infrastructure
5. Direct PUC to report back to the Legislature annually

*For more information contact Nell Geiser, CWA Research Director, [ngeiser@cwa-union.org](mailto:ngeiser@cwa-union.org).*