To include reasonable costs for high-speed Internet service in the utility allowances for families residing in public housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Foster introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________________

A BILL

To include reasonable costs for high-speed Internet service in the utility allowances for families residing in public housing, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Closing the Digital Divide for Students Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE IN PUBLIC HOUSING UTILITY ALLOWANCES FOR CERTAIN FAMILIES.

Subsection (b) of section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(14) UTILITY ALLOWANCE.—A utility allowance under this Act for public housing shall include costs for high-speed Internet service, subject to the following limitations:

“(A) COST.—The cost included in a utility allowance for a public housing dwelling unit pursuant to this paragraph shall not—

“(i) exceed the lowest cost available in the area of such housing for such high-speed Internet service; and

“(ii) include any costs for cable or satellite television service or for joint packages for Internet service together with cable or satellite television service.

“(B) QUALIFIED FAMILIES.—Costs for high-speed Internet service may be included in a utility allowance only for a household that incurs such costs and includes children who qualify for free and reduced price lunch pursuant to

“(C) PROTECTION OF MINORS.—Costs for high-speed Internet service may be included in a utility allowance for a household only if the Internet service provider, upon initial provision of such service for a household, provides the household with a specific technology capable of blocking or filtering Internet access to visual depictions described in section 254(h)(5)(B)(i) of the Communications Act of 1937 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)(i)) that provides a level of protection against access by minors to such depictions through the Internet that is at least as great as the level of protection provided by a technology protection measure (as such term is defined in paragraph (7) of such section 254(h)) that meets the requirements for certification under such paragraph, as determined by the Secretary.”.