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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FOSTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Closing the Digital  
5 Divide for Students Act of 2026”.

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

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

7 “(14) UTILITY ALLOWANCE.—A utility allowance  
8 under this Act for public housing shall include costs for  
9 high-speed internet service, including the cost of renting  
10 or purchasing equipment necessary to access such service  
11 and a one-time installation fee, subject to the following  
12 limitations:

13 “(A) COST.—The cost included in a utility al-  
14 lowance for a public housing dwelling unit pursuant  
15 to this paragraph for monthly internet service shall  
16 not—

17 “(i) exceed the lowest cost available in the  
18 area of such housing for such monthly high-  
19 speed internet service; and

20 “(ii) include any costs for cable or satellite  
21 television service or telephone service.

22 “(B) FAMILY CHOICE.—Subparagraph (A) may  
23 not be construed to prohibit a household in public  
24 housing from subscribing to—

1           “(i) a high-speed internet service the cost  
2           of which exceeds the cost described in subpara-  
3           graph (A)(i); or

4           “(ii) any joint package for internet service  
5           together with cable or satellite television service  
6           or telephone service, or both.

7           “(C) QUALIFIED FAMILIES.—Costs for high-  
8           speed internet service may be included in a utility al-  
9           lowance only for a household that incurs such costs  
10          and includes children who qualify for free and re-  
11          duced price lunch pursuant to section 9 of the Rich-  
12          ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42  
13          U.S.C. 1758).

14          “(D) PROTECTION OF MINORS.—Costs for high-  
15          speed internet service may be included in a utility al-  
16          lowance for a household only if the internet service  
17          provider, upon initial provision of such service for a  
18          household, provides the household with a specific  
19          technology capable of blocking or filtering internet  
20          access to visual depictions described in section  
21          254(h)(5)(B)(i) of the Communications Act of 1934  
22          (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)(i)) that provides a level of  
23          protection against access by minors to such depic-  
24          tions through the internet that is at least as great  
25          as the level of protection provided by a technology

1 protection measure (as such term is defined in para-  
2 graph (7) of such section 254(h)) that meets the re-  
3 quirements for certification under such paragraph,  
4 as determined by the Secretary.”.