

ROBERT F. "ROB" MATZIE
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
HOUSE CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
16TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM
COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE DATA PROCESSING COMMITTEE
PIAA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/MATZIE



House of Representatives
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March 13, 2020

AT & T
CTIA
Comcast
PA Broadband Cable Association
PA Telephone Association
Sprint
T-Mobile
Verizon

We write to you today with a sense of community and urgency. Pennsylvania, like the rest of the country, is navigating through the pandemic, COVID-19 (coronavirus). We request your companies temporarily remove data caps on both home broadband internet and wireless internet service.

Public school districts, universities, and businesses throughout the Commonwealth are transitioning to learning and working from home. This practice of social distancing is emerging as a key tool in protecting our citizens from becoming ill with and spreading COVID-19. In fact, social distancing is being strongly encouraged by medical professionals and governments. On March 12th, Governor Wolf mandated the closure of all schools in Montgomery County. We expect more schools to announce closures, as well.

It is imperative that we in government and business ensure that online learning is available to ALL in Pennsylvania without hinderance. We have seen positive policy changes on this issue in the last couple of days. Comcast has announced they are increasing bandwidth for low-income internet customers. ATT is suspending data caps for all its customers. And, Verizon has announced an increase in capital expenditures to strengthen its network's capacity. Eliminating these burdens are necessary. With that said, more needs to be done.

The impact of this pandemic on school students and their families must be minimized. Fees for data overages should be suspended and/or data caps on broadband and wireless internet service should be suspended by all companies providing internet service to our Commonwealth's residents. Eliminating data caps and/or waiving data overage fees will further ensure students, as well as Pennsylvania's workforce, can weather this health crisis.

"SERVING BEAVER & ALLEGHENY COUNTIES"

Your attention and response to the logistical challenge facing the Commonwealth cannot be understated. It is imperative that schools, government, and business continue to work together to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on our community. When we help one another the whole community benefits. We thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

Sincerely,



ROBERT F. MATZIE
CHAIRMAN
CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



ED NEILSON
MEMBER
CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CC: The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor
Dr. Rachel Levin, Secretary Department of Education