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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lack of Internet Access Leads to Denial of Public Education

‘Some Foster Public School Students are left behind in 2015. This is an outrage and needs a resolution immediately,’ says Representative Michael Chippendale

STATE HOUSE – “Many parents are very pleased with the Ponaganset School District’s implementation of the Chromebook project – it’s cutting edge technology and our 7th and 9th graders are now using Chromebooks for classroom learning and for homework,” said Representative Michael Chippendale (R- District 40, Foster, Gloucester, Coventry).

“But, there is a catch - and it’s a big one,” explained the representative. “There are approximately 232 Foster homes that have no means of accessing Broadband Internet. The students in those households want to do their homework – but they can’t. They have the high tech equipment - which taxpayers have paid for, but the technology is rendered useless in the students’ own homes! This is why I introduced House bill [5488](#). We must bring access to Broadband Internet to those Foster residences ASAP so these students can do their schoolwork and complete their homework.”

“This problem will only multiply each year because Ponaganset will be adding two more grade levels to the Chromebook Project every year. Even more students will be left behind if there is no resolution to this inequity.”

Chippendale continued, “This problem can be solved by working with utility companies to provide broadband internet services to the towns and school districts where they already exist but stopped short of providing coverage throughout the entirety of those towns and cities. In Foster, that represents about 12 percent of families and their children left without access to the internet.”

“Imagine, your child needs to get homework done on a computer and the area of town where you live has no broadband internet access – in the year 2015.”

Rep. Chippendale’s [bill](#) will be heard at the Rise – at approximately 4:30 - on Tuesday, March 10 in Room 203 in the State House.

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