

Please do not make it more difficult for us to succeed by lowering our standards in the United States! Having lived, worked, and studied in both urban (San Francisco, CA), and rural (Soldotna, AK) areas, I have numerous personal experiences with how high speed broadband increases, and low speed broadband decreases, an individual's ability to succeed. Here are some examples: in high school and college I often struggled to submit online assignments on time because my internet was not fast enough. Slow internet has also caused me to miss or only partially complete quizzes, tests, group discussions, and lectures. When I was accepted to graduate school, I couldn't access my acceptance letter because at the time our internet was too slow to even allow me to check my email! While job searching I have lost entire job applications because the internet was too slow to submit them fully. On the flip side, when I was working and studying in the San Francisco area, I never dealt with any of these challenges.

Today I work at a public library in rural Alaska. Although all of our patrons live on the road system, many of them do not have the option of purchasing broadband internet because they live outside the service area. Others pay \$80+ a month for internet that has frequent outages and typically does not get above 7mbps. Cell phone coverage is spotty for phone calls, even more so for mobile data. Some examples of every day tasks that we struggle to complete due to slow broadband include: receiving and paying bills, filing taxes, accessing online accounts such as for banking and managing health insurance, submitting resumes and job applications, working from home, accessing government information and news, staying in touch with family, friends, and colleagues, and of course using the internet for education and entertainment purposes.

One of the great things about the United States of America is that we strive to always increase and improve the opportunities and quality of life available to all of us. Lowering the standard broadband speed from 25mbps will only serve to decrease our ability to succeed. Also, mobile internet is not a substitute for home broadband. I do not support lowering the standard broadband speed and I also do not support the idea that Americans with access only to mobile internet but no home broadband are adequately served.