



Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide

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Ministerial Alliance Applauds Illinois House Committee for Working to Bridge Digital Divide for Low Income Children

CHICAGO, IL - The following statement can be attributed to Reverend James L Demus III, co-director of the Ministerial Alliance Against the Digital Divide (MAADD) regarding the Illinois House Computer Technology Committee's recent approval of HB 5244, legislation that would provide 10,000 lower-income 7th-grade public school students with laptop computers:

“The House Computer Technology Committee has taken an important step towards bridging the digital divide in Illinois. In the digital age, applying to college or applying for a job is entirely dependent on one’s ability to send an application or a resume online. If a child’s family cannot afford to own a computer, that child is placed at a severe disadvantage when trying to compete with children from more affluent families.”

“This I-Connect initiative would help bridge this gap by providing computers to disadvantaged students and will allow the state of Illinois to create one of the future’s most skilled workforces in the nation,” said Demus. “We would like to commend Gov. Blagojevich, Lt. Gov. Quinn, State Rep. Connie Howard - Chair of the House Computer and Technology Committee and Sponsor of HB 5244, State Rep. Robin Kelly (D-Matteson) for their efforts to pass this very important law. We urge members of the Illinois House and Senate to support this important measure.”

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MAADD is an organization of Chicago-area ministers and over 8,000 members devoted to bridging the digital divide between those who have ready access to the Internet and those who do not, and ensuring that basic technology such as phone service remains accessible and affordable for all.