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Philadelphia Inquirer
Op-ed: Why Internet access is a 'super' determinant of health

In Congress, both parties finally agree that the United States has fallen too far behind on providing high-speed internet and that action is necessary to connect millions of Americans. But in typical Washington fashion, how to solve the problem has become a point of contention. Fortunately, room for compromise is great, and Congress should work to find the middle ground for the benefit of the country.

Bloomberg
Sandberg Says Facebook 'Has to Get Better' on Hateful Content

The House last week passed a \$100 billion “universal fiber broadband plan,” with votes coming down almost entirely along party lines. The Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act, introduced by Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., and co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Forest Hills, would create an \$80 billion fiber infrastructure program run by a new “Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth” that would coordinate broadband deployment in all 50 states.

New York Times
This Year's Summer Campground: Our Bedrooms and Living Rooms

The remaining \$20 billion would facilitate other projects, such as improving remote learning capabilities for low-income students and establishing digital inclusion projects for organizations and local communities. Advocates for the Democrats’ proposal point to the legislation’s potential to both provide thousands of jobs and end the digital divide that has plagued rural and low-income communities throughout America. The Federal Communications Commission has estimated that 14 million Americans are without internet access and 25 million are without reliable high-speed broadband service.

Hollywood Reporter
Netflix Stock Hits All-Time High, Nears \$500

Bloomberg

But that figure is likely an underestimate because the FCC data is based on census blocks, not households. A 2019 study by Microsoft puts the number of people without broadband service closer to 163 million. Republicans also have

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**New York Times
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**Harrisburg Patriot-News
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**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Feds issue \$1.1B in small business loans, including at least \$600K for Rep. Mike Kelly's dealerships**

**Associated Press
VP Mike Pence's Pennsylvania visit will include Manheim fundraiser, 'Back the Blue' rally**

**The Hill
Senate Democrats urge Pompeo to ensure Americans living overseas can vote in November**

put forward plans to address the issue. Sens. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Marsha Blackburn, D-Tenn., recently introduced an internet access expansion bill that allocates \$6 billion for broadband. A separate plan, introduced by Mr. Wicker and Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., lacks dollar figures but promises funding and "regulatory relief" for telecommunications companies.

The gulf between the Democratic and Republican proposals is vast — the Republicans' \$6 billion would barely cover the Democrats' plan for improving remote learning capabilities, let alone expand broadband throughout the entire nation. But, if there is a silver-lining to the disparity between the proposals, it is that there is ample room for compromise. Mr. Clyburn and Mr. Wicker, along with other engaged colleagues, should collaborate on legislation that bridges the partisan divide, delivering modern internet infrastructure to all Americans, including those who live between the coasts, and creating thousands of jobs in the process. – **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editorial**

As part of Dish Network's \$1.4 billion agreement last week to purchase around 9 million Boost-branded mobile customers from T-Mobile, the company also quietly said it would purchase billions of dollars of additional spectrum. Dish agreed to move forward on a previously announced plan to purchase 13.5MHz of 800MHz spectrum nationwide from T-Mobile for a whopping \$3.6 billion. Based on the terms of the companies' agreement, Dish said it would potentially purchase the spectrum during 2023, and that T-Mobile might continue to use a portion of the spectrum until 2025.

The transaction might not actually happen, given that it's not scheduled to close for another three years and much can happen between now and then. That the companies last week reiterated their plans to go through with the deal only underscores the fact that Charlie Ergen – the chairman of Dish Network and a key architect of the company's 5G strategy – ostensibly has an utterly inexhaustible desire for spectrum. After all, Ergen has already spent more than \$20 billion on spectrum licenses over more than a decade, and Dish still has not yet put those licenses into widespread commercial use.

Last week Dish made a splash with its [official move into the wireless industry](#). The company agreed to become the nation's second-largest MVNO via its acquisition of 9 million prepaid customers from T-Mobile. Dish will manage those customers on T-Mobile's network while it begins building its own 5G network. Dish already [has named Mavenir, Altostar and Fujitsu](#) as its initial 5G vendors.

But left unsaid in Dish's [press release on the matter](#) was its interest in acquiring even more spectrum (T-Mobile laid out the details of the pending transaction [in an SEC filing](#)). The spectrum acquisition is noteworthy considering Dish [already owns roughly the same amount of lowband and midband spectrum as Verizon](#), the nation's largest wireless network operator in terms of customers.

Dish's planned acquisition of T-Mobile's 13.5MHz of 800MHz spectrum stems from its [initial agreement with T-Mobile and the Department of Justice in 2019](#). In that deal, Dish essentially agreed to replace Sprint as the nation's fourth nationwide wireless network operator, thus bypassing the DoJ's antitrust concerns with the deal. The licenses Dish is set to acquire from T-Mobile in 2023 cover nationwide lowband spectrum mainly used by Sprint. Following its merger with Sprint, T-Mobile is building a nationwide 5G network [primarily using its 600MHz and 2.5GHz spectrum licenses](#). The lowband 800MHz licenses Dish is buying will be ideal for covering large geographic areas, but [not necessarily for transmitting lots of data](#).

Despite Dish's agreement with T-Mobile and the DoJ in 2019 to enter the wireless industry and build a 5G network – and [the more than \\$10 billion that effort will require](#) – Dish's Ergen still isn't satisfied with his spectrum warchest. Dish has already spent \$216 million [across three recent FCC](#)

[auctions](#) for millimeter wave spectrum. And Dish is among roughly 250 entities that have been approved to bid in the [FCC's upcoming 3.5GHz CBRS auction](#). Whether Dish intends to add valuable 3.7-4.2GHz C-band spectrum to its holdings remains to be seen. The FCC is scheduled to auction C-band spectrum in December; Verizon is [widely expected to dominate that auction](#). - *LightReading*

The nation's second largest cable operator [Charter](#) Communications said Monday it's selling \$1.5 billion in debt and could use the fresh cash to repay existing debt and fund share buybacks. It expects to close the offering of senior unsecured notes due in 2031 on July 9. The company sold \$3 billion in senior notes in April as media companies sought a cash cushion in the midst of the fast-spreading, economy-devastating coronavirus pandemic.

Charter had approximately \$79 billion of debt outstanding as of March 31, including \$54.6 billion of senior secured debt, according to ratings agency Fitch, which in a note Monday praised the company's "market share-driven strategy focusing on enhancing the overall competitiveness of its video service and leveraging its expanding all-digital infrastructure." Charter is improving subscriber metrics, growing revenue and ARPU, and stabilizing operating margins," Fitch said.

Charter is also the third-largest multichannel video programming distributor after Comcast and AT&T's DirecTV with nearly 30 million customers. Despite pressure on the legacy cable bundle, its growth in Internet, mobile, commercial and video revenues has helped drive the stock higher. It gained 42% from a low in April, the height of a Wall Street panic over the impact of the virus. Charter also ranked 18th among the 30 most popular stocks held by hedge funds at the end of the first quarter, according to finance website Insider Monkey. Shares closed Monday up 1.6%, or \$8.60, at \$526.29.

- [deadline.com](#)

States can require Electoral College voters to back the victor of their state's popular vote, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Monday, in a major dispute that could have an impact on November's presidential contest. Justice Elena Kagan, who authored the opinion of the court, wrote that "nothing in the Constitution expressly prohibits States from taking away presidential electors' voting discretion."

Kagan wrote that the Constitution gives states "broad power over electors" and "electors themselves no rights." "Early in our history, States decided to tie electors to the presidential choices of others, whether legislatures or citizens. Except that legislatures no longer play a role, that practice has continued for more than 200 years," Kagan wrote.

Kagan's opinion was joined by all of her fellow justices except for Justice Clarence Thomas, who sided with the majority for different reasons. Two cases were brought by Electoral College voters in Washington state and Colorado who refused to back Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, despite her wins in those states. In both cases, the Democratic electors were mounting last-ditch efforts to prevent President Donald Trump from taking office after it was apparent that he had won enough votes to carry the election. Under the complex rules that govern American elections, it is the vote of the Electoral College that ultimately determines the winner of the presidency.

Virtually every state — besides Maine and Nebraska — allocates all of its Electoral College representation to electors who have committed to vote for the winner of the state popular vote. And most states, including Washington and Colorado, have laws that require electors to vote for their pledged candidate. The electors who brought the two cases argued that the enforcement of those laws was unconstitutional. Micheal Baca, the Colorado elector, was replaced before he could cast his vote for former Ohio Gov. John Kasich. Three

Washington electors were hit with \$1,000 fines after voting for former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Lower courts divided on the issue, with courts in Colorado and Washington ultimately coming down on opposite sides. The federal appeals court in Colorado sided with Baca, while the Washington Supreme Court sided with the state and upheld the fines. The Supreme Court's action on Monday affirmed the Washington court's decision and reversed the Colorado decision. Justice Sonia Sotomayor recused herself from the Colorado case.

Thomas, joined in part by Justice Neil Gorsuch, wrote separately to express different reasons for his vote. Rather than find that the Constitution grants states power over electors, Thomas wrote that the Constitution was silent on the matter. "When the Constitution is silent, authority resides with the States or the people," Thomas wrote. While "faithless electors" have never affected the outcome of a presidential race, such an outcome was plausible in a future contest, attorneys for the electors told the justices. Larry Lessig, an attorney for the Washington electors, said in court papers that a swing of just 10 electors would have been enough to alter the results of five previous presidential races.

For that reason, the lawyers asked the top court to resolve the matter ahead of the November election between Trump and presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden, the former vice president. Lessig, in a statement released after the opinion was announced, said that "regardless of the outcome, it was critical to resolve this question before it created a constitutional crisis." "We have achieved that. Obviously, we don't believe the Court has interpreted the constitution correctly. But we are happy that we have achieved our primary objective — this uncertainty has been removed. That is progress," Lessig said.

Jason Harrow, who represented Baca, said that while "we don't think the Supreme Court correctly interpreted the Constitution, at least we know whether laws that bind electors can be enforced in the upcoming election." Jena Griswold, the Colorado secretary of state, wrote in a post on Twitter that the "unanimous decision by the Supreme Court ensures that Americans' voices will be heard in the Presidential election. We must fight all attempts to suppress voters and any corruption in our elections."

Washington Attorney General Robert Ferguson said in a statement that the court had reaffirmed "the fundamental principle that the vote of the people should matter in choosing the President." "If we had not been successful, many observers, including several justices, noted the upcoming elections could have been thrown into 'chaos,'" Ferguson wrote. – **CNBC**

