



March 15, 2017

Assemblymember Mike Gipson  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0064  
Tel: (916) 319-2064  
Fax: (916) 319-2164

**Re: A.B. 811 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gipson:

I am writing today on behalf of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco that protects civil liberties in the digital world. Founded in 1990, EFF has over 36,000 members, including thousands in California.

EFF lends our strong support to A.B. 811, the legislation you have introduced to establish that all youths in the custody of the Division of Juvenile Facilities, or juvenile halls, ranches, camps, or forestry camps, or in foster care, have a right to access computers and the internet for educational purposes and to remain in contact with their family members.

When youth are incarcerated, it is the government's duty to ensure that they receive the necessary services for rehabilitation and successful integration back into the free world. Computer literacy and computer skills are crucial to development in the modern era, particularly when it comes to finding jobs. In addition, since many facilities are located in remote areas, placing youth far from their homes, accommodations should be made using modern technology to allow detainees to maintain meaningful relationships with their families to enhance the support structure for successful rehabilitation.

Similarly, youth in foster care must also have access to the same resources that most children receive through their schools, libraries, and homes.

EFF commends you for bringing this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss how we may further lend our assistance to passing

A.B. 811. I may be reached by email at [dm@eff.org](mailto:dm@eff.org) or by phone at 415-436-9333 ext. 151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMAS', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dave Maass  
Investigative Researcher  
Electronic Frontier Foundation