Rep. Lasinski offered the following resolution:

A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to ensure that all Americans have internet access necessary to participate in telemedicine, distance learning, and telework as part of any legislation that provides relief and recovery resources related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Whereas, The spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in a global pandemic spreading across 213 countries, areas, and territories, including the United States; and

Whereas, To combat the rapid dispersion of the virus, drastic measures have been taken in Michigan and other states, including orders requiring residents to stay at home. For many of us, this means taking our daily activities — school, work, and medical care — online; and
Whereas, Affordable and reliable internet access is fundamental to full participation in education, work, and health care in everyday life, but it is even more urgently needed during this health crisis. Yet 37 percent of Michigan residents do not have access to high speed broadband internet and in some rural counties this number exceeds 90 percent. Disparities in home internet access exacerbates existing gaps in educational, economic, and health outcomes for disadvantaged individuals and families; and

Whereas, The closure of many schools across the nation due to COVID-19 and the transition to online learning makes it crystal clear that access to the internet is an absolute requirement to continued education in the United States. Yet, over 9,000,000 children across the country do not currently have any internet access; and

Whereas, Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, accessing health care in person carries risks for some individuals. Yet, lack of internet access makes it impossible for many Americans to participate in telemedicine opportunities with their doctors. This lack of internet access is increasing healthcare disparities in the nation; and

Whereas, Providing state and local governments with adequate funding and increasing funding support of the Federal Communications Commission will ensure that all students, employees, and those seeking medical care are able to participate equally in necessary, online activities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to ensure that all Americans have internet access necessary to participate in telemedicine, distance learning, and telework as part of any legislation that provides
relief and recovery resources related to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
be it further
Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
congressional delegation.