**AP-6 RN-1716693 “Increasing Seniors Access to Digital Technology Hardware”**

**Submitted by Senior Assemblyman David Siegrist**

 This proposal intends to provide no-cost, low-cost access to digital technology to the Senior population, especially the burgeoning Baby Boomeer Population. Added will be training for Seniors in the use of digital technology.

More and more Seniors are retiring and are in need of productive leisure time-filling opportunities. One such opportunity is participating in digital technology, particularly for communicative opportunities. Unfortunately, many Seniors are left out of the digital technology age due to the high cost of digital technology devices and high costs of training.

Yet, there are no-cost, low-cost digital devices available for them.

In our very own California Public School Systems (K-5, K-6, K-8, K-12) and Community Colleges. These public institutions, i-a-w California Education Code §17455 may dispose of surplus property as they deem appropriate. The local school board makes the decision. Research demonstrates that throughout the State of California, the standard practice of school districts is to declare large numbers of digital technology devices as “obsolete surplus property.” This property very often includes fully functioning desktops, laptops, ipads, and printers. They are then routinely sold to “recyclers” for one dollar each, or even less. These devices, in so many cases, are often only two or three years old, fully operable, and fully capable of accessing the internet and/or employable for word processing.

Deemed “obsolete surplus property,” these desktops, laptops, and i-pads are incompatible with the “latest” software generation. Once purchased, the buyers choose to dismantle them for parts, but most often resell these same tax-payer purchased “obsolete surplus” digital devices to school systems in other states or foreign countries.

Said tax-payer-purchased “obsolete surplus property” should be offered to California’s Seniors on a first-come-first-serve basis together with hands-on training in the local adult school.

My research is based on long-time experience, having personally served on the Rio Hondo Community College Board of Education for eight years, two years on the El Monte City School District Board of Trustees, and multiple personal conversations with other school board members throughout this state, particularly in the Annual Conference of the California School Boards Association.

The Senior population merits full access to no-cost/low-cost digital technology, i.e., computers and printers in order to engage in productive leisure time and be enabled to communicate with colleagues, friends, relatives, and beyond. A workable solution is to require all school districts (K-14, including community colleges) to donate tax-payer-purchased working “obsolete surplus” digital technology devices to California’s Senior population on a first-come/first-served basis.

Additionally, throughout California, adult schools should be required to include training in the use of digital technology to the Senior population