

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives U.S. Capitol Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Majority Leader United States Senate 322 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Republican Leader United States Senate 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Brian Patrick Kennedy

Speaker Pro Tempore Rhode Island General Assembly President, NCSL

Sabrina N. Lewellen

Deputy Director- Senate Assistant Secretary of the Senate Arkansas General Assembly Staff Chair, NCSL

Tim Storey

Chief Executive Officer

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, commonwealths, and territories, we are writing to express support for the *Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024*. This legislation would help ensure that the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) has the funding needed to continue helping low-income American families afford high-speed internet service.

Congress created the ACP in 2021 to make broadband service and connected devices available to lower-income households at discounted prices from providers who opt to participate in the program. To date, the ACP has given 23 million low-income individuals and families the chance to access online educational resources, employment opportunities, telehealth services, and government assistance, and more fully participate in our civic life.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, the ACP will exhaust its funding by April of this year. A lapse in the funding for this vital program will undoubtedly impose hardships on the millions who rely on the ACP to secure high-speed internet services essential for workers and employers, students and teachers, patients and health care providers, and for staying connected with friends and family to combat isolation and loneliness.

Moreover, the end of the ACP would impede the success of ongoing federal and state efforts to close the digital divide through the construction of new infrastructure that is helping provide high-speed internet access for individuals and families in unserved and underserved parts of the country.

As elected leaders, we believe it is crucial for Congress to prioritize the continuity and sustainability of the ACP to ensure that low-income American families can continue to afford high-speed internet service to enhance their daily lives. We look forward to working together to advance the *Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024* and other efforts to ensure continued funding for the ACP.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to us or Barrie Tabin, NCSL Legislative Director at barrie.tabin@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Patrick Kennedy

Brian Patrick Kennady

Speaker Pro Tempore, Rhode Island

President, NCSL

Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.

State Representative, Massachusetts Co-Chair, Technology and Communications

Standing Committee, NCSL

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Wayne A. Harper

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Jason Saine

State Representative, North Carolina

Co-Chair, Technology and Communications

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Jason R. Saire

Cc: Senator Peter Welch

Senator JD Vance

Senator Kevin Cramer

Senator Jacky Rosen

Representative Yvette Clarke

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick

Representative Michael Lawler

Representative Norma Torres

Representative Anthony D'Esposito

Representative Debbie Dingell

Representative Darren Soto

Representative Marc Molinaro