

Mon., April 15, 2024

Re: H. Res. 1119, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6929) to appropriate funds for the Affordable Connectivity Program of the Federal Communications Commission

To Members of the House of Representatives,

On behalf of our millions of supporters and members, we, the undersigned 271 civil rights, consumer protection, education, environmental and faith groups as well as municipal broadband departments, local, state and Tribal governments urge you to go to the floor beginning on April 18 to sign H. Res. 1119, the discharge petition filed by Representative Clarke in support of H.R. 6929, the *Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024*.

Access to affordable high-speed internet is not a luxury in 2024. The Affordable Connectivity Program has successfully allowed more than 23 million households¹ to get — and stay — connected to robust broadband service at home. This represents a huge step forward in closing the digital divide for low-income, rural and Tribal communities, including many people of color and people with disabilities. Without additional funding for the program, we stand to backslide on that progress.

At the end of last year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) conducted a survey of recipients and unearthed stunning findings.² Eighty percent of respondents cited affordability as the reason they had inconsistent or no service prior to the ACP.³ More than three-quarters of respondents said that losing the ACP would disrupt their service, up to and including dropping internet service altogether. That means millions of households across the country — nearly half of which are military families⁴ — could lose their ability to access job opportunities, education, healthcare, online banking, and government services, and lose their ability to stay connected to what's going on in their community.

The continuation of the ACP is critical not only for the futures of the families the program connects but also to other recent federal investments in closing the digital divide. Critically, a lapse in funding for the ACP could limit the impact of Congress' historic \$42 billion investment in connecting every unserved

¹ Universal Service Administrative Co., ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker, <https://www.usac.org/about/affordable-connectivity-program/acp-enrollment-and-claims-tracker/>

² Federal Communications Commission, ACP Consumer Survey (Feb. 29, 2024), <https://www.fcc.gov/acp-survey>

³ Federal Communications Commission, ACP - Measuring Impact (Feb. 29, 2024), <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/Measuring-Impact-ACP-Survey-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

⁴ White House, Fact Sheet: As Affordable Connectivity Program Hits Milestone of Providing Affordable High-Speed Internet To 23 Million Households Nationwide, Biden-Harris Administration Calls on Congress to Extend Its Funding (Feb. 6, 2024), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/02/06/fact-sheet-as-affordable-connectivity-program-hits-milestone-of-providing-affordable-high-speed-internet-to-23-million-households-nationwide-biden-harris-administration-calls-on-congress-t/>

American under the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. BEAD and ACP were designed to work hand-in-hand, with the ACP reducing the per-household subsidy needed to incentivize providers to build in rural areas by 25%.⁵

Unfortunately, in less than two weeks, the internet bills for one out of every six homes in the U.S. are going to rise because Congress has thus far failed to appropriate more funding to keep those households online with ACP support. Just a few weeks after that, the program will lapse entirely. We urge you to sign the discharge petition put forth by Rep. Clarke because time is of the essence. We cannot let these families lose their vital connections merely because Congress failed to vote on an immensely popular bill with a bipartisan majority's support.

Sincerely,

1st District City Council Philadelphia
211info
A Healthier Democracy
Addison County Communications Union District (dba Maple Broadband)
African Family Holistic Health Organization
AgeWell at the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh
Alaska Public Interest Research Group
All4Ed
Alliance for Digital Equity
American Association for Public Broadband
American Civil Liberties Union
The Arc of the United States
Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation
Arizona Students Recycling Used Technology
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands
Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace
Austin Free-Net
Austin Urban Technology Movement
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition
Baystate Health
Benefits Data Trust
Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

⁵ Common Sense Media, Closing the Digital Divide Benefits Everyone, Not Just the Disconnected (2022), https://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/research/report/2022-cs-bcg-closing-digital-divide_final-release-3-for-web.pdf#page=34

Beyond Literacy
Black Women's Roundtable
Blue Mountain Action Council
Buckeye Hills Regional Council
California LGBT Arts Alliance
Calista Corporation
Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia
Can Code Communities
Center for Living & Working, Inc.
Center for New Americans
Center for Popular Democracy
Center for Rural Strategies
Central Berkshire Regional School District
Central New York Digital Inclusion Coalition
Centre WISP Venture Company, LLC
CGM LLC
Change Begins With ME (Indivisible)
Chicopee Public Library
Chief Officers of State Library Agencies - COSLA
Chinese Information and Service Center
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Church Women United in New York State
Citizens Action Coalition of IN
City of Baltimore, MD
City of Bell Gardens
City of Boston
City of Philadelphia
City of Portland, Oregon
City of Sierra Vista
City of Yonkers
Civic Nation
Clayton County Georgia Office of Digital Equity
Climate + Energy Project
Coalition on Human Needs
Coconino County
Color Of Change
Common Cause
Common Sense Media
Communications Workers of America
Community Action Association of Pennsylvania
Community College of Philadelphia
The Community for Positive Aging

Compudopt
Computer Reach
Congoese Integration Network
Connect Humanity
Connect Your Community
Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology
ConnectLakeCounty
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
Cummington Municipal Light Plant
CyberHawaii
Dalton Council on Aging & Senior Center
Denver Area Educational Telecommunications Consortium
Digital Equity Institute
Digital Harbor Foundation
Digitunity
Disability Resource Center
Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Library
E2D, Inc.
Earth Ethics. Inc
Easterseals Southern California
The Education Partnership
EducationSuperHighway
Energy Equity Project (University of Michigan)
Erase The Divide LLC
Estli Consulting
EveryoneOn
Fiber-Up My Neighborhood
Finger Lakes Digital Inclusion Coalition
Fontana Regional Library
Free Press Action
Generations on Line
Global Initiative for Digital Rights
Goodwill Manasota
Greenfield Community College
Greenfield Public Library
The Greenlining Institute
Greenvest
Guam Office of Infrastructure Policy and Development
Hands on Coding
Hawai'i's Volcano Circus
Health Federation of Philadelphia

Heath Broadband
Heath MLB
HIAS Pennsylvania
Hispanic Federation
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District
HOPES CAP, Inc.
Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
HTTP/ (Hispanic Tech & Telecommunications Partnerships)
Human-I-T
Independence Associates, Inc.
Indonesian Lantern Magazine
Invest Newark
Islamic Center of Portland
Japanese American Citizens League
Jesus People Against Pollution
Just Harvest (Pittsburgh PA)
Kahikinui Hawaiian Homestead Assn
Kahikinui Hawaiian Homestead Association
Keystone Internet Coalition
Kings Hill Development Foundation NFP
Kramden Institute
Laptop Upcycle
Latinx Digital Leaders Now
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of Oregon Cities
LEARN-Lifelong Education Aging and Resource Network
Liberty Resources Inc.
Link Oregon
Literacy Pittsburgh
Literacy Rochester
Literacy Works
LiteracyCNY
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Los Angeles Public Library
Low Income Utility Advocacy Project
Lummi Indian Business Councils Workforce Development Department
M&ABJ Bristow Public Library
MAB/Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Maine Connectivity Authority
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Media Alliance

Mendocino Women's Political Coalition
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Metropolitan Family Service
MetroWest Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Mohawk Networks, LLC
Monopoly Solutions
Multicultural, Media Telecom and Internet Coalition
MVEDD
NAACP
National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA)
National Church Residences
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Digital Equity Center
National Digital Inclusion Alliance
National Disability Institute
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Parents Union
National Skills Coalition
National Urban League
Native Village of Port Lions
Nature Coast Conservation
Navajo Nation Digital Equity Initiative
NE Steam Coalition
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New America's Open Technology Institute
New Mexico Public Education Department
New Milford Social Services
New Salem Municipal Light Plant
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
Northeastern Utah Educational Services
NTEN
Nü Communications Alliance
Nuclear Free World Committee
Nyadak Pal Peace Foundation
Oglala Lakota Telecommunications, LLC
Open Door Family Medical Center
Otis Municipal Light Plant Otis Fiber
Outside the Frame
Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i
Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point

Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
PFLAG National
Philly Community Wireless
PhillyCAM
Pittsburgh Digital Equity Coalition
Plainfield Municipal Light and Telecommunications Department
Plainfield Public Library
Portland Gray Panthers
Promise Arizona
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts
Public Justice Center
Public Knowledge
Puente De La Costa Sur
Puerto Rico Smart Island Broadband Program
The Public Utility Law Project of NY
Pullman Public Schools
Radiant Light Broadcasting
Red Mountain Communications LLC
Right Here, Right Now Project
ROC United
San Juan County Library System
Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition
SEAMAAC, Inc.
SEE (Social Eco Education)
Sequoia ForestKeeper
SETDA
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Show Me Broadband Coalition
Sigma Beta Xi, Inc.
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
Sourcewise (PSA 10)
Southeast Community Development Corporation
Southern California Association of Governments
Southern Tier Network
Stavros Center for Independent Living, Inc.
The STEM Alliance
Strong Women Alliance
Syracuse Housing Authority
TDIforAccess (TDI)
Tech Foundry
Tech Goes Home

Tech2Elevate, Inc.
Technology Learning Collaborative (TLC Philly)
TNTP
Town of Colrain
Town of Colrain MA Municipal Light Plant
Town of Guilford Social Services
Town of Leyden MLP
Town of Washington MA Municipal Light Plant
Town of Wendell MLP
Transit Authority Figures Inc.
Tribal Ready, PBC
TURN-The Utility Reform Network
UnidosUS
United Church of Christ Media Justice Ministry
United Palatine Coalition
United Spinal Association
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Way of Orleans County, NY
United Way of Southwestern PA
United Way of Westchester and Putnam
Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Not-for-Profit
US Ignite
Vermont Communications Union Districts Association
Vinfen
Vintage, Inc.
Vote Climate
The Washington County Authority
Way Finders
The Wei LLC
Westchester Children's Association
Westchester County Board of Legislators, District #8
Westchester Jewish Community Services
Western New York Library Resources Council
Westfield Gas + Electric/Whip City Fiber
Working Concepts, Inc.
YWCA Westmoreland County