

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3302

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Unless Congress acts soon, May will be the final month that enrolled households receive any benefits from the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). We are extremely concerned about the consequences of losing access to high-speed internet for affected individuals and families in North Carolina and write to strongly urge you to prioritize a funding extension for this vital program using any upcoming legislative vehicle.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the need for high-speed internet access for telehealth, remote learning, employment opportunities, and other essential services. Low-income households, rural communities, the elderly, and veterans remain especially prone to significant health, economic, and educational disparities due to a lack of internet connectivity.

In 2021, to combat these disparities, Congress established the ACP through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This program has provided eligible households with up to \$30 per month to help reduce the costs of their internet subscriptions as well as a one-time discount of \$100 for the purchase of a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet through a participating provider. Roughly 1 in 6 households in the United States now save \$30 to \$75 on their monthly internet bills through the ACP.

We are pleased that our state has taken full advantage of the program. As of March, over 901,000 North Carolina households had enrolled — roughly 1 in 5 households statewide. In total, our state has received over \$550 million in funding from the program, translating to approximately \$26.6 million in total monthly savings for North Carolina families. We hear from our

constituents regularly about the importance of the ACP and the positive difference it has made in their lives.

Again, we strongly urge you to prioritize a funding extension for the Affordable Connectivity Program using any upcoming legislative vehicle. If funding for this critical program is allowed to lapse, hundreds of thousands of our constituents risk losing access to high-speed internet at a time when they increasingly rely on this connection to get an education, provide for their families, access health care, and participate in our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah K. Ross".

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald G. Davis".

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress