

The Honorable

Washington, DC

Dear

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, I write today to urge you to co-sponsor and support \_\_\_\_\_, The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Extension Act of 2024. This bill provides additional funding for the ACP at a critical time. If this bill does not pass, over 23 million households will be saddled with an unaffordable spike in their internet bills, which may force them offline.

On December 31, 2021, to comply with the Congressional directives in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Federal Communications Commission launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a \$14.2 billion successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit which enabled nearly 9 million Americans to afford home broadband during the pandemic. This was a well-timed and much needed affordability solution; nationwide, two-thirds of the entire digital divide is due to affordability.

Over 23 million American households, including \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ currently rely on the ACP for affordable internet service. If Congress does not prioritize extending funding for the ACP, your constituents in \_\_\_\_\_ will soon see a spike in their internet bill – and may face losing internet service altogether. This would occur just as states prepare to make the biggest broadband investment in history.

Separate from the ACP, the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program relies on individuals being able to afford broadband access in order to incentivize the construction of high-speed broadband infrastructure in currently underserved areas. States are structuring these BEAD grant awards and ISPs are working through calculations on whether infrastructure build-outs are profitable in rural areas. By allowing ACP to lapse, ISPs will inevitably rethink their calculations and may change or scrap construction plans all together. Without ACP, the BEAD program cannot fully accomplish its mission.

The ACP remains a vital 21st century program for connecting people to sustainable broadband connections for school, work, and life. We urge you to co-sponsor and support \_\_\_\_\_ in order to save this important program and keep over 23 million households online via affordable internet plans.

Sincerely,