

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United State House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United State House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson and Democratic Leader Jeffries,

As Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we write urging you to include \$6 billion needed to replenish the highly popular and effective Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in any government funding package, as requested by President Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 emergency supplemental funding proposal.

Established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the ACP is a true bipartisan public policy success story. It provides eligible households with \$30 a month towards high-speed broadband service (\$75 a month on tribal lands) as well as a one-time \$100 credit towards purchase of a computer or tablet device. So far, over 21 million households participate in this program across rural, urban and suburban communities. The program has enabled an enormous step forward towards closing the digital divide and ensuring that all Americans can access affordable high-speed internet service for work, school, healthcare, government services, and more. It is also vital to the success of the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program designed to build out broadband to unserved and underserved communities.

At current enrollment rates, ACP is expected to run out of funds as soon as Spring of 2024, cutting off this critical support for millions of students, rural families, low-income households, elderly citizens, and other users. Given today's economy with so many jobs, services, resources, and cultural opportunities only available online, that should be unthinkable.

The impact of ACP exhaustion would be especially severe in communities of color where internet access and adoption still lag.¹ Access to affordable and reliable internet is essential for full participation in today's 21st century economy. Therefore, lack of affordable high-speed internet will put these communities further behind.

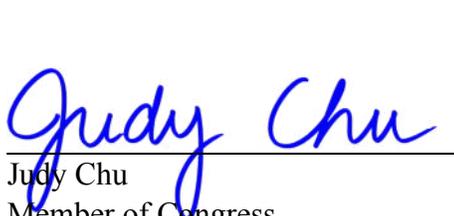
¹ Pew Research Center, *Home broadband adoption, computer ownership vary by race, ethnicity in the U.S.*, July 16, 2021 ("Black and Hispanic Americans remain less likely than White adults to say they own a traditional computer or have high-speed internet at home.").

But the harm would be felt in every neighborhood across the nation. Indeed, according to Common Sense Media, enrollment in the program is split almost evenly between Republican and Democratic Congressional Districts, and the program’s popularity and support is near universal:

[T]he program is overwhelmingly popular, and uptake is exceeding even the highest expectations. Our analysis shows it's popular in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. It's popular with Democrats, Republicans, and independents. In short, the ACP is helping people everywhere, no matter where they live or how they vote.²

Before he passed, Congressman and American hero John Lewis said “Access to the internet . . . is the civil rights issue of the 21st Century.”³ And through the Affordable Connectivity Program you and your peers have made historic progress tackling this urgent issue. We urge you now to build on that legacy and continue closing the digital divide and helping millions of American families access affordable high-speed internet by providing the \$6 billion in ACP funding that President Biden has requested in any new government funding package.

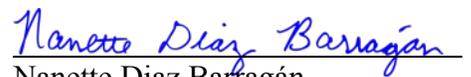
Respectfully,



Judy Chu
Member of Congress
Chairwoman, Congressional Asian
Pacific American Caucus



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Chairman, Congressional Black
Caucus



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress
Chairwoman, Congressional
Hispanic Caucus



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



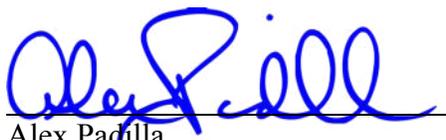
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

² Common Sense Media, *How Successful Is the Affordable Connectivity Program?*, June 20, 2023.

³ Essence, *Broadband Access Is A Civil Right We Can't Afford To Lose—But Many Can't Afford To Have*, December 6, 2020.



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



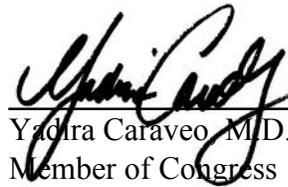
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



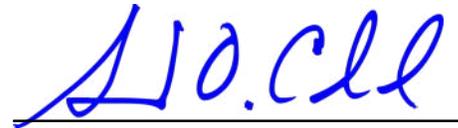
Brendan F. Boyle
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Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Yachira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



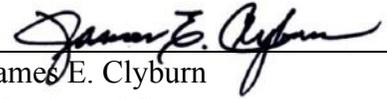
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



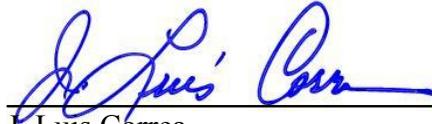
Yvette D. Clarke
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



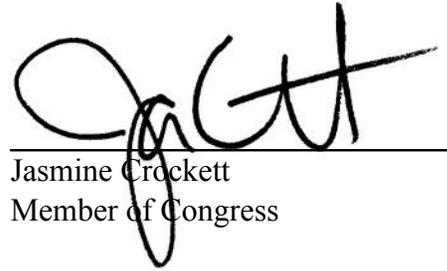
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress



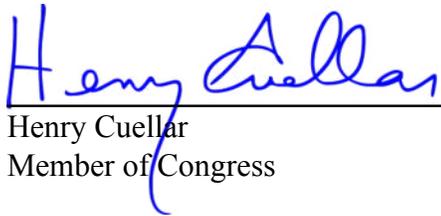
J. Luis Correa
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Jasmine Crockett
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Henry Cuellar
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Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



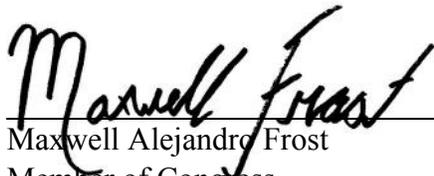
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
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Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Vice Chair on Housing and
Transportation, House Democratic
Caucus Poverty Task Force



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



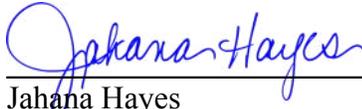
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



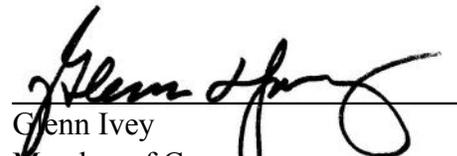
Al Green
Member of Congress



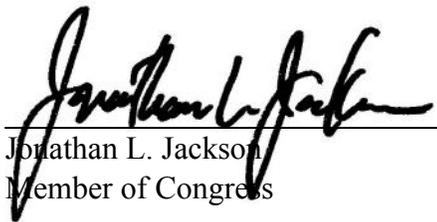
Raúl M. Grijalva
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Jahana Hayes
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Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



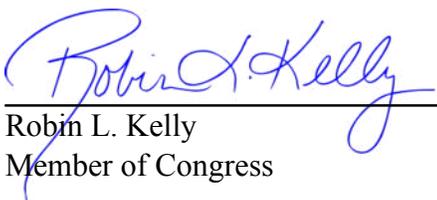
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Sheria Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Barbara Lee
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Susie Lee
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Teresa Leger Fernández
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Mike Levin
Member of Congress



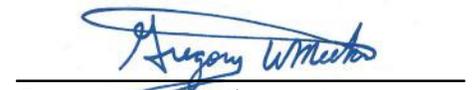
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



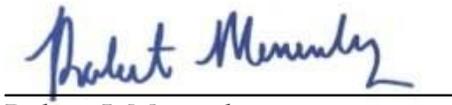
Lucy McBath
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Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



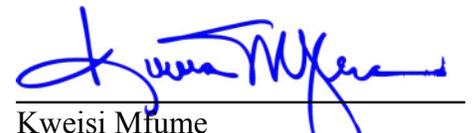
Gregory W. Meeks
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Robert J. Menendez
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Grace Meng
Member of Congress



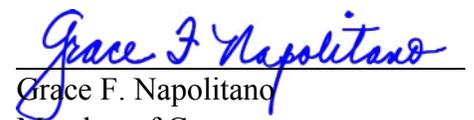
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



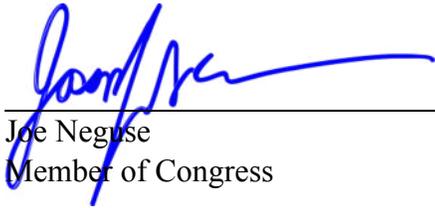
Gwen S. Moore
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Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



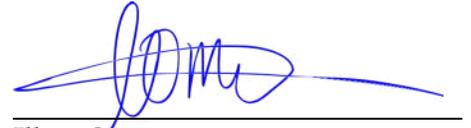
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



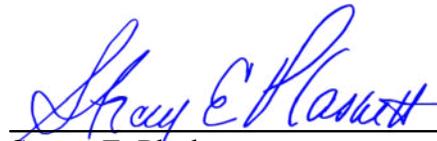
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Ilhan Omar
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
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Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



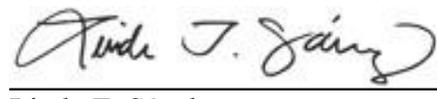
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



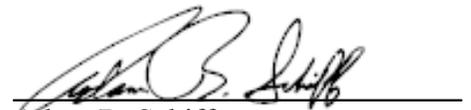
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



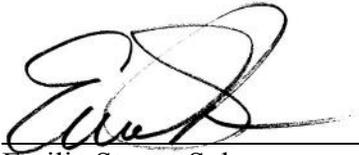
Terri A. Sewell
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Darren Soto
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Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



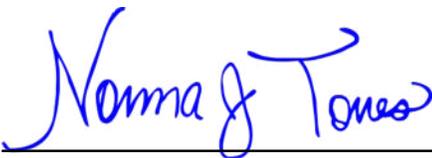
Bennie G. Thompson
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Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
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Norma J. Torres
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Ritchie Torres
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Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



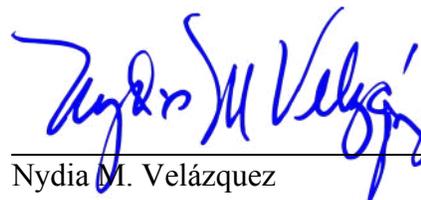
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

cc: Chair of Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Patty Murray
Vice Chair of Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Susan Collins
Chair of House Committee on Appropriations, Rep. Kay Granger
Ranking Member of House Committee on Appropriations, Rep. Rosa DeLauro