



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



April 16, 2024

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

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, 118th Congress

Dear House Leaders and Members:

Re: H. Res. 1119, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R.6929 - Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024) to appropriate funds for the Affordable Connectivity Program of the Federal Communications Commission

On behalf of the nation's counties, cities, towns, villages, and their respective national associations – the National League of Cities, United States Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors – we write in support of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a valued program in the process of shutting down due to a lack of funding. We urge all Members of Congress on April 18th to sign H. Res. 1119, a discharge petition filed by Representative Clarke in support of H.R. 6929, the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024 to ensure quality and affordable internet access for all Americans.

ACP is the largest broadband affordability effort in our country with more than 23 million households achieving online digital access through it, including seniors, veterans, school-aged children, rural, urban and Tribal households and communities alike.

We see broad support to fund ACP through the bipartisan, bicameral bill, H.R.6929 - the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act with over 224 co-sponsors since its introduction in January by Rep. Yvette Clarke and H.R. 6929's recent endorsement by the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus.

As the level of government closest to the people, we know firsthand the benefit of the Affordable Connectivity Program to households and communities who are otherwise at risk of being left behind. The continuation of the ACP is critical for families, seniors, veterans, school-aged children, rural, urban Tribal households and communities to live, learn and work in today's digital world.

Further, the ACP program supports recent federal investments to close the digital divide authorized by Congress such as the historic \$42 billion investment to connect every unserved American under the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. BEAD and ACP, together, further incentivize broadband providers to build in rural areas, unserved areas and under-served communities.

We welcome this opportunity to work collaboratively with Congress and our nation's broadband partners to achieve equitable broadband deployment in our country through the combined efforts of infrastructure investment for accessibility and ACP for affordability, thereby ensuring quality and affordable internet access for all Americans.

We thank you for considering our viewpoints and urge you 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.

Sincerely,



Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors



Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
The National Association of Counties



Tonya Rideout
Executive Director
The National Association of Telecommunications
Officers and Advisors

If you have any questions, please contact:

The **United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)** is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,400 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Contact: David W. Burns, Assistant Executive Director, at 202-861-6765 or dburns@usmayors.org.

The **National League of Cities (NLC)** is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions. Contact: Angelina Panettieri, Legislative Director for Information Technology and Communications, at 202-626-3196 or panettieri@nlc.org.

The **National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors' (NATOA)** 400 members are local government staff and their advisors offering a wealth of experience and expertise on public rights-of-way management telecom work and communications issues on behalf of local government related to broadband, wireless, cable television, public, educational, and government (PEG) access, public safety communications, consumer protection and PROW management. Contact: Mike Lynch, Legislative Affairs Director, 703-519-8035, x202 or MLynch@NATOA.org.

The **National Association of Counties (NACo)** provides essential services to the nation's 3,069 counties, serving nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Since 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate county priorities in federal policymaking and optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings while promoting exemplary county policies and practices. Contact: Seamus Dowdall, Assoc. Legislative Director, Telecommunications & Technology at 202-942-4212 or sdowdall@naco.org.