

February 9, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives U.S. Capitol Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger Chair, House Appropriations Committee United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Tom Emmer Majority Whip United States House of Representatives U.S. Capitol Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Whip Emmer, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The undersigned FCC Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) grantees, members of the No Home Left Offline Coalition, and other organizations involved in ACP outreach and enrollment, write to you today to urge you to prioritize passage of HR 6929, The Affordable **Connectivity Program (ACP) Extension Act of 2024.** Without additional funding, the ACP will terminate at the end of April 2024, and 23 million households may be forced offline. The funding in this bill would allow the program to continue through most of 2024 and will prevent millions of Americans from facing sudden, unexpected, and unaffordable increases in their home internet bills. This program must be allowed to continue while advocates and policymakers work towards a more permanent solution.

Today marks a significant moment in the ACP; the FCC is no longer accepting new enrollments to the program, and program enrollees have already received at least one notification that their benefits will end, creating confusion in the market. Soon, these 23 million enrolled households will see a spike in their internet bill and potentially lose service entirely. **2024 could be the first year in history that <u>FEWER</u> households are connected to the internet than in the previous year. This will occur just as states are preparing to make the biggest broadband investments in history.** 

Our organizations are committed to closing the digital divide and ensuring that all households have access to adequate and affordable broadband connections. Together, we have helped enroll beneficiaries across more than 30 states, and have conducted hundreds of outreach and enrollment events. If Congress allows the ACP to expire, all of the progress made across the country may be lost. Further, this may cause distrust among enrollees; if the ACP, or similar broadband benefit, is created in the future, it may be significantly harder to reach these enrollees. We look forward to working with Congress to achieve our shared goal of closing the digital divide and **urge you to prioritize passing HR 6929**, *The Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024*, before current funding lapses.

Sincerely,

#OaklandUndivided Access Telecom Access Wireless A Freeman Ins Co & Driving School Alaska Literacy Program Allentown Digital Inclusion Initiative Andrena Barn Quilt Association of Garrett County, Inc. Bausy Books Consulting dba CFO For Women Black Star Telecommunications & Fiber Services Inc **BNT** marketing **Brooksville Maine Broadband Committee** CASA, Inc. **Catholic Charities Denver Center for Changing Lives** City of Racine Wisconsin Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community **Coastside Hope** Common Sense Media Community Action Partnership Sonoma County **Community Action Partnership of Utah** Compudopt Computers 4 People ConnectLakeCounty Council for Affordable and Rural Housing **Council of Community Services** CSC Consulting Group Cumberland Plateau Regional Housing Authority Cunningham Telephone Company, Inc. **Delaware County Community Partnership** Digital Durham, digital equity collaborative **Digital Harbor Foundation** Disability Network Washtenaw Monroe Livingston **Diversity Cyber Council** East Smithfield Public Library **Economic Action Maryland** 

- EducationSuperHighway
- El Raton Media Works
- Excess Telecom
- Excite Cooking Labs LLC
- Garland County
- Global Refuge
- Gotham Food Pantry
- Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance
- Harrisonburg City Public Schools
- Idealect
- Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
- Jonathan Rose Companies
- **Keystone Internet Coalition**
- Latinx Digital Leaders Now
- LEARN Lifelong Education and Aging Resource Network, Inc
- Levine's Enterprises LLC
- Lily of the Valley Emmanuel Church Of Jesus Christi
- Lyons Communications
- Macon Housing to Success Inc.
- Maxsip
- Moline Housing Authority
- Montana Community Action Network
- MSK Community Center
- Multicultural Media, Telecom, and Internet Council
- My Care Companions
- Mycelia Foundation
- National Apartment Association
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Association of Housing Cooperatives
- National Catholic Educational Association
- National Church Residences
- National Multifamily Housing Council
- NEK Community Broadband
- Nextlink Internet
- Northeast Kingdom Community Action
- Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
- NPower
- Oak Hill Collaborative
- Open Tech Institute
- Prime Nation
- Project Ready
- **Reading Public Library**

Satview Broadband Ltd ScaleLIT SGC Shoes For Kids St.Clement Manor Stevens County Library Tech Connect Technology Learning Collaborative **Texas Rural Funders** The Open Door/Wellspring House Town of Ordway **United Palatine Coalition** United Way of Northern Utah **US** Ignite **USU** Extension Villa Comunitaria West Custer County Library District Westerly Public Schools WinstonNet Word Empowerment Church Xyro Excuses YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago