

August 15, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

Nation's Finest, recently celebrating 50 years of support to those who have earned it, our veterans, understands the unique challenges that our veteran community continues to grapple with. In response to these concerns, this letter serves to advocate for the continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a pivotal initiative administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The ACP, a bipartisan initiative, has been instrumental in bridging the digital divide, providing internet services and devices to our veterans and their families.

For our veterans, the accessibility of affordable internet has been more than a convenience; it has been a lifeline. Internet connectivity is not just about staying in touch with loved ones or accessing online entertainment. It means an opportunity for our veterans to access critical services, to pursue online education or remote job opportunities, and to maintain the social and professional connections so vital to their reintegration into civilian life. Moreover, for veterans dealing with health issues, including those related to their service, reliable internet access can mean the difference between easy access to telehealth services and challenging, sometimes prohibitive, travel to in-person appointments.

ACP funding is rapidly running out and if there is not additional funding added, the implications would be severe and far-reaching. Not only would nearly 20 million Americans face the risk of losing their digital lifeline, but veterans and their families would also be disproportionately affected. The impact on rural communities, a primary focus for Nation's Finest and where the ACP has had a significant effect and where many veterans reside, would be particularly devastating.

Affordable broadband is a critical enabler for less affluent households, including our veteran families, facilitating the pursuit of their path home. It is therefore of critical importance that Congress allocates the necessary funds to ensure the continuity of the ACP. On behalf of the Nation's Finest, we strongly urge you to take the necessary steps to preserve this essential program.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important request as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Best regards,

Chris Johnson CEO



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