



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

August 31, 2023

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

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority

Leader McConnell:

I write to urge you to prioritize efforts to work collaboratively with the Administration to ensure that a key tool in our joint efforts to bridge the digital divide—the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)—is reauthorized. It is essential that customers do not lose access to this vital program.

There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that having access to affordable high-speed internet is a necessity in today's digitally dependent world. The last few years have reflected this reality, as students across the country need internet access for online learning, small business owners use online platforms to access their customers and grow their businesses, and patients utilize telehealth services to access health care, particularly in more remote, rural areas where such services may be their only option. This reality is why I write to you today.

Knowing the role that affordability can play in preventing many Americans from getting the connectivity they need, my administration has been focused on amplifying and enrolling as many eligible households as possible in the ACP. That is why I have “doubled down” on legislation passed by Congress and invested to expand broadband connectivity to ensure that everyone who needs it has it, regardless of socioeconomic status or where a person lives.



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Analysts estimate that ACP will run out of funding by as early as [April 2024](#). Absent a bipartisan collaboration between Congress and the White House to find a commonsense funding solution for the ACP, nearly 20 million households enrolled nationally would be in jeopardy of losing connectivity as well as all the essential services that come with it.

All of society stands to gain from this program. In addition to the low-income Americans who gain affordable internet access, widespread access to broadband drives economic growth, workforce development, and public safety.

The ACP has also been a critical complement to my efforts to expand access to broadband infrastructure in rural, unserved communities across the country. With [\\$42.5](#) billion in Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding going to the States, it is vital that we make sure this once-in-a-generation opportunity does not go to waste. The ACP plays an invaluable role in enabling households to be able to afford a broadband subscription and, as result, incentivizing internet providers to invest more capital in building out rural broadband infrastructure.

Recent analysis reflected the complementary role the ACP plays in terms of driving rural broadband deployment, finding that the ACP reduces the subsidy needed to incentivize providers to build in rural regions by [25%](#) per household, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used to their maximum potential.

Closing our nation's digital divide transcends politics. Whether you live in a rural area, a suburb, or a city—every American deserves access to high-speed internet. Preserving the ACP will allow us to continue building upon the progress we've made in expanding connectivity, rather than falling behind in a mission we cannot afford to lose.

I appreciate your attention to this issue. I and my administration stand ready to work with you and the White House to find a commonsense solution to reauthorizing the ACP. The time to act is now to find a solution that ensures this crucial program remains intact for all our constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor of Michigan