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October 22, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As discussions continue on a supplemental funding request to address domestic priorities, I write to urge you to sustain the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) into 2024 and address the funding shortfall in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program. Providing funding for these policy goals will help keep Americans connected to the internet on networks that are secure.

To help more American families afford a broadband connection, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided \$14.25 billion for the ACP. To date, the program has helped more than 21 million households get connected to the internet. However, without additional funding, this program will expire in early 2024 with initial notices of service termination potentially going out during the height of the holiday season. If this vital program were even to briefly lapse, it would undo years of progress closing the digital divide. I share your goal of sustaining this bipartisan program and urge you to include funding to keep ACP solvent well-into 2024.

In addition to keeping Americans online, this supplemental funding request provides an opportunity to ensure the networks that support those connections are trusted and reliable. As an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, I believe it is a national security imperative that we immediately remove vulnerable equipment manufactured by companies like Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) or ZTE Corporation from American networks. The \$3 billion funding shortfall in the Supply Chain Reimbursement Program is preventing this bipartisan goal from being realized. Until this shortfall is addressed, I believe the United States will continue to be exposed to an unacceptable national security risk. I urge you to include full funding for the Supply Chain Reimbursement program in this supplemental funding request.

I appreciate your continued commitment to closing the digital divide and reinforcing American cybersecurity. I look forward to working with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doris Matsui". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doris" and last name "Matsui" clearly legible.

Doris Matsui
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
And Technology