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**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR  
LEA WEBB  
52<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT**

**CHAIR**  
WOMEN'S ISSUES  
**COMMITTEES**  
AGRICULTURE  
CITIES 2  
HEALTH  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
MENTAL HEALTH  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

September 25, 2023

Dear New York Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the undersigned New York state lawmakers representing rural communities in Upstate New York, we thank you for your leadership in making sure New York remains the best place to raise a family and live.

As many residents in our rural and upstate small cities, towns and villages have learned since the COVID-19 pandemic made remote work and learning an essential part of everyday society: access to the internet is essential. While State and federal officials hope the answer to Internet access for the underserved or isolated parts of New York will come from the Biden administration's \$65 billion broadband initiative and Gov. Kathy Hochul's \$1 billion "ConnectALL" initiative, we must also remain focused on affordability for certain residents in our state.

We support the continuation of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which has provided connectivity to over 20 million households across the Nation and over 1.5 million just in New York alone. During the last two legislative sessions, we have prioritized and supported efforts in the state to increase reliable, high-speed internet, which is critical to closing the digital divide and creating education access and economic opportunity for all citizens in our state.

Experts are warning that the Affordable Connectivity Program could run out of funds as early as next spring, cutting off this critical program for millions of New Yorkers in rural Upstate, and tribal areas and beyond our borders. Moreover, while millions of households already participate in the ACP since it began less than a year and a half ago, more households are eligible for the program, but may have not yet enrolled because they are not aware of the benefit. Participation will only grow as more households are made aware of this important program due to your work in Washington.

Efforts to ensure the continuation of the federal Affordable Connectivity Program is very important as it will help to expand the number of residents in the Empire State to have online access to government services, telework opportunities, telemedicine, and virtual education.

Such access will also continue to boost the economies in Upstate communities in the state.

We respectfully ask for your support to extend funding to the Affordable Connectivity Program and thank you for your service and dedication to New York.

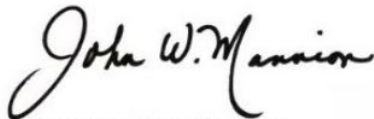
Sincerely,



State Senator Lea Webb  
Senate District 52



State Senator Jeremy Cooney  
Senate District 56



Senator John Mannion  
Senate District 50



Senator Michelle Hinchey  
Senate District



State Senator Rachel May  
Senate District 48



Senator Sean Ryan  
Senate District 61



Senator Samra Brouk  
Senate District 55