



Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

## Washington State Senate

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December 18, 2023

Dear Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray,

Over 330,000 Washington households are at risk of losing internet service early next year if Congress does not fund the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). As advocates for ensuring everyone has access to high-speed internet, we urge you to avoid this by supporting the White House's domestic funding [request](#) for \$6 billion to sustain the ACP until 2025.

The ACP is a critical program for Washington. Our state is receiving over [\\$2 billion](#) to build and improve broadband infrastructure, provide devices to those who lack them, and promote the adoption of technology among our least connected communities. This is the largest and most comprehensive investment in digital equity our state has ever made. If Congress allows the ACP to lapse, even for a short time, every aspect of this historic investment will be undercut.

The ACP benefits people whether they have access to broadband or not. Where broadband is available, the ACP allows subscribers to afford internet speeds and devices [sufficient](#) for key online activities, like education, healthcare, employment, banking, and public services. Where broadband is not available, the ACP [incentivizes](#) the deployment of new broadband infrastructure. Given Washington's patchy broadband coverage ([pg. 63](#)), this incentive is essential to bring broadband to every corner of the state. For these reasons, the Washington State Dept. of Commerce lists ACP promotion as the number one KPI in our state's Digital Equity Plan ([pg. 32](#)).

Unfortunately, the ACP is on [track](#) to run out of funding during Q2 of 2024. To prevent this, a chorus of stakeholders – the [White House](#), [FCC](#), [NTIA](#), [Democrats](#), [Republicans](#), [industry](#), and [advocates](#) – have called for additional ACP funding. Not only would this funding allow the ACP to meet its obligations through the end of 2024, it would give policymakers time to develop a mechanism to fund the program on a permanent basis.

The ACP is an essential component of Washington's economic growth, workforce development, and innovation. Allowing the ACP to end would be a great disservice to Washingtonians who rely on the program to access vital online services and resources. We urge you to support the President's request for \$6 billion in additional funding for the ACP. This is an essential step toward making the ACP permanent and the internet affordable.

Sincerely,

  
Sen Marko Liias (D-21)

  
Sen Matt Boehnke (R-8)