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February 8, 2024

Rep. Mike Bost, Chair
Rep. Mark Takano, Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
364 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20003

Sen. Jon Tester, Chair
Sen. Jerry Moran, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
412 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Veterans’ Affairs Committee Leaders:

Millions of U.S. veterans and military families depend on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to keep them connected to vital online services. As members of the military community, we are writing to urge swift congressional approval of continued funding for this commendable program.

Over 23 million American households are enrolled in the ACP, and nearly half of them are military families. This critical government-funded program provides qualifying households with financial support to get affordable internet service. With a subsidy up to \$30/month for those households, or \$75/month on tribal lands, broadband can go from seemingly unattainable to affordable or even free. For low-income veterans, military families, and others who qualify, this can be a game-changer – giving them more breathing room to make financial decisions while also giving them access to connectivity.

Fast, dependable internet connectivity is an essential tool. It is especially important for our veterans, as it is necessary to help them access the benefits and support they earned with their military service. It opens doors to much-needed resources and opportunities too.

Health care, employment, job training, and VA benefits are just a few of the many services that veterans can access without leaving their homes by using the internet. More than 2.2 million veterans, for example, depend on internet-supported telemedicine solutions for their physical and mental well-being. It is crucial that we ensure veterans have the online connectivity they need for reintegration, stability, and growth as they build the lives they deserve after serving our country.

As you are well aware, the future of the ACP is in your hands. If Congress fails to act, current funding for the ACP will run out in April, and this critical program will terminate – leaving millions of American households – including many veterans – in a lurch. It is essential that you not only make the extension of current ACP funding a top legislative priority, but also work to make this a permanent program.

Veterans answered the call when our country needed them. Now they need you. Please approve the funding necessary to continue making the ACP available for veterans who depend on the affordable broadband access it provides.

Sincerely,

James J. Carey, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret)

David A. Deptula, Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force (Ret)

James "Spider" Marks, Major General, U.S. Army (Ret)

Mastin Robeson, Major General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)