

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO FUND THE AFFORDABLE  
CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM THROUGH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION BEYOND APRIL 2024

WHEREAS on December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 became law and established an Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund of \$3.2 billion in the United States Treasury to help Americans afford internet service during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) afforded eligible low-income households to receive a discount off the cost of broadband service and certain connected devices with participating providers being able to receive a reimbursement for such discounts; and

WHEREAS on May 12, 2021, the EBB Program launched and consumers could apply for the program through the National Verifier and service providers began enrolling consumers; and

WHEREAS on November 21, 2021 Congress created the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a new long-term, \$14 billion program, to replace the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program which helped to ensure eligible households could afford the connections needed for work, school, health care and more for a long time; and

WHEREAS as of January 2024, over 22 million households nationwide are enrolled and receiving the ACP monthly benefit; and

WHEREAS as of November 2023, 58,982 residents spanning 11 North Country counties of New York State are receiving a monthly benefit at a total amount of \$1,871,697 with total subsidies to households of \$31,041,738 (January 2022 – November 2023); and

WHEREAS February 7, 2024 was the last day that the ACP could accept new applications and enrollments with no more enrollments into the ACP beginning February 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS without additional funding from Congress, the allotted \$14.2 billion to fund the ACP is projected to run out in April 2024; and

WHEREAS with the ACP monthly benefit concluding in April 2024, the 22 million households nationwide (of which 58,982 are located in the North Country) currently enrolled in this subsidy shall be forced to make unnecessarily difficult decisions on how to cover the additional fees of essential internet service previously covered by ACP.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Country Broadband Alliance, a grassroots organization comprised of local and State elected officials, national and regional broadband providers, Congressional representation, non-profit organizations and concerned citizens living in the North Country of New York State urges Congress to continue funding the ACP so that tens of thousands of North Country residents can continue to enjoy affordable broadband services for their personal, professional, educational and health care needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Country Broadband Alliance urges local Town and County governments to support this resolution to demonstrate to Congress that North Country governments show solidarity for the need to assist our most vulnerable constituents in affording essential broadband access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to congressional representatives of the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional districts who represent North Country counties and municipalities as well as to Senator Schumer's and Senator Gillibrand's offices for their consideration of support.

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