

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 82

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex and Hudson)
Senator BRIAN P. STACK
District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Congress to renew funding for Affordable Connectivity Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/18/2024)

SR82 RUIZ, STACK

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1 A **SENATE RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the Congress of the
2 United States to renew funding for the Affordable Connectivity
3 Program.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Millions of Americans, many of whom are low-wage
6 earners or live in rural areas, are without access to broadband
7 Internet services; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Broadband is critical to everyday activities such as work,
9 school, and accessing healthcare; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Consequently, without access to broadband Internet
11 services, individuals struggle to improve social outcomes through
12 education, achieve upward economic mobility, gain digital literacy
13 skills, and receive quality healthcare; and

14 **WHEREAS**, To close the digital divide, in 2021, the Federal
15 Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Affordable
16 Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a discount of up to
17 \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and
18 up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and

19 **WHEREAS**, In addition, the program offers a one-time discount of up
20 to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from
21 participating providers, under specific circumstances, for eligible
22 households; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Since its inception, the ACP has helped to expand
24 broadband access to over 20 million households in the United
25 States; and

26 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey, as of January 2024, 335,079 households are
27 enrolled in the ACP, which means that roughly one in 10
28 households in the State benefit from the program; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Since the ACP's launch in 2021, New Jersey alone has
30 received nearly \$152 million in ACP funding, resulting in \$8.3
31 million per month in collective cost savings on broadband Internet
32 services for all New Jersey households enrolled in the program; and

33 **WHEREAS**, However, the FCC announced that, without additional
34 funding from Congress, the ACP is slated to expire in April 2024
35 when the program is scheduled to exhaust its \$14.2 billion budget;
36 and

37 **WHEREAS**, To improve broadband access for millions of Americans,
38 and thereby advance social, economic, and health outcomes for the
39 underserved, Congress is respectfully urged to renew funding for
40 the Affordable Connectivity Program; now, therefore,

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42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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44 1. This House respectfully urges the Congress of the United
45 States to renew funding for the Federal Communications
46 Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program.

