## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As Members of Congress representing constituents across the Commonwealth of Virginia who rely on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), we are writing to highlight the critical need for an extension of ACP funding.

According to recent data, more than 450,000 households across Virginia – or 14 percent of the Commonwealth – are enrolled in the ACP. The ACP makes it easier for Virginians to afford internet services by providing a \$30 monthly credit toward internet bills for eligible households. Congress established the ACP through the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, and families have relied on this program for more than two years.

However, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently announced that the ACP will likely run out of funding by April 2024. Earlier this month, the FCC closed its application portal for new applicants.

If Congress does not act, hundreds of thousands of Virginians and millions of Americans across the country will lose access to this vital program. Especially as we continue to hear concerns from those we represent about the rising cost of living, now is not the time to pull the plug on this crucial assistance to families. As you know, access to broadband is essential for accessing educational resources and telehealth services, fostering economic development, investing in a skilled workforce, and maintaining social connections.

Accordingly, we urge appropriators to prioritize funding for the ACP to ensure that families, regardless of income level, have access to affordable broadband and can thrive in today's digital landscape. Time is of the essence, as inaction would strip this benefit from hundreds of thousands of Virginians and force families to choose between access to high-speed internet and other necessities.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Abigail Davis Spanberger

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