

Andy Beshear GOVERNOR

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February 7, 2024

Senator Mitch McConnell 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman James Comer 2410 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Morgan McGarvey 1527 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Hal Rogers 2406 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 Senator Rand Paul 295 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Brett Guthrie 2434 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Thomas Massie 2453 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Andy Barr 2430 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of Kentucky's Congressional Delegation:

I urge you to pass legislation to fund the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and ensure Kentuckians who qualify continue to have access to critical, quality, affordable, high-speed internet.

The ACP was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as a \$14.2 billion program to help millions of low-income households afford access to high-speed internet. The program provides up to \$30 as a monthly benefit to cover a household internet bill, as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer. Unless Congress acts, the ACP is forecast to run out of funding in April 2024. Today, the Federal Communications Commission will begin to wind it down.

In Kentucky, 453,540 households are currently enrolled in the ACP. That's nearly half a million more Kentucky families who have access to high-speed internet now than before the program started. Under the ACP, the Commonwealth has received \$239 million to help families afford the internet, saving Kentuckians about \$13 million per month. Kentucky's adoption rate is 52%, nearly 10% higher than the national average. What's more, the ACP lends a hand to Kentucky families in greatest need. Approximately 37% of Kentuckians who live in Appalachia are currently enrolled in the program.

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If Congress fails to fund the ACP, more than 453,000 Kentucky families, and millions of Americans, already enrolled in the program will lose access to the affordable high-speed internet they depend on. Whether it is for health care, education, job resources, or even worship services, Kentuckians need reliable access to the internet.

We appreciate your valuable time and careful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Andy Besheri

Governor

Table 1. Affordable Connectivity Program Enrollment in Kentucky by Congressional District

District	Households Enrolled	Estimated Percent of Households	Estimated Fraction	Total Funding
KY-01	65,588	22%	1 in 5	\$34,518,485
KY-02	63,584	22%	1 in 5	\$32,717,505
KY-03	85,061	29%	1 in 4	\$43,555,651
KY-04	51,882	18%	1 in 6	\$27,107,104
KY-05	108,818	37%	1 in 3	\$61,210,810
KY-06	71,465	24%	1 in 4	\$37,263,919