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THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of
Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of
Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

We are writing to express our support for extending funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, an essential program that over 23 million families rely on to access quality and affordable high-speed internet.

The Affordable Connectivity Program has been a key tool in our efforts to eliminate the digital divide in America since it was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021. This program itself served as a long-term replacement for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which connected families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit crystallized for many the stark reality of the challenges presented to Americans who lack access to quality and affordable broadband and revealed a need for a long-term solution.

Having quality and affordable broadband has become essential in America. High-speed internet is a necessity for almost every American, connecting people to educational opportunities, telemedicine, and of course, opportunities for work and entrepreneurship. Living in the 21st century means having quality high-speed internet, and the Affordable Connectivity Program helps ensure this for millions of American families.

The fact that the Affordable Connectivity Program was enacted into law as a part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is not lost on us – it's a program that has wide

support. From Democrats to Republicans, to rural and urban areas, to the telecommunications industry and all levels of government, the Affordable Connectivity Program is recognized by all as successful.

At this crucial time, we urge Congress to renew and extend the Affordable Connectivity Program funding in 2024 to ensure currently enrolled low-income households continue to have access to affordable high-speed internet. Extending the Affordable Connectivity Program will help close the digital divide, allow Americans to access the resources they need, and strengthen the U.S. economy to compete in the 21st Century.

As America's mayors, we stand ready to continue our support for this program and look forward to continuing this important work to ensure that everyone has access to quality and affordable broadband.

Sincerely,

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