

CITY OF ALBANY



NEW YORK

ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL

www.albanyny.gov

Room 202, City Hall

Albany, New York 12207

Telephone (518) 434-5087

Fax: (518) 434-5081

commoncouncil@albanyny.gov

March 25, 2024

Senator Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Leo O'Brien Building
Room 827
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Senator Majority Leader Schumer,

When the Affordable Connectivity Program was first conceived of in 2020, it promised households that were struggling to afford broadband the opportunity to live, work, and learn with the same level of access as their wealthier neighbors. It was going to be a game-changer: In the 21st century, when broadband internet access is a necessity, the prospect of extending reliable and affordable connectivity to the poor and to working families meant one step toward a more equitable society.

Fast forward to 2024, and the Affordable Connectivity Program has kept its promises. Millions of Americans—countless New Yorkers and Albanians among them—have subscribed to the program, bringing their broadband access in line with their neighbors and freeing up their hard-earned dollars to keep food on the table and contribute to our local economy.

It would be a shame to lose that.

While the Federal Communications Commission says that funding for the ACP will run out after April 2024, our constituents are already reporting that ACP credits on their internet service bills have ceased. That means that right now, City of Albany residents are deciding between paying rent and paying for their kids' ability to finish their homework. This is a choice that no one should have to make, and it doesn't have to be this way.

You have the opportunity to allocate additional funding toward the Affordable Connectivity Program by supporting both the Biden Administration's supplemental budget request for the Affordable Connectivity Program and the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024. The impact of this funding and the continued success of the ACP cannot be overstated, and we urge you to take action now to ensure that it continues to deliver results for our residents.

Sincerely,

Hon. Owusu Anane
Ward 10 Representative

Hon. Gabriella Romero
Ward 6 Representative

Hon. Jack Flynn
Ward 8 Representative

Hon. Meghan Keegan
Ward 9 Representative

Hon. Ginnie Farrell
Majority Leader
Ward 13 Representative

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Representative Paul Tonko
19 Dove Street
Unit 302
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Representative Tonko,

When the Affordable Connectivity Program was first conceived of in 2020, it promised households that were struggling to afford broadband the opportunity to live, work, and learn with the same level of access as their wealthier neighbors. It was going to be a game-changer: In the 21st century, when broadband internet access is a necessity, the prospect of extending reliable and affordable connectivity to the poor and to working families meant one step toward a more equitable society.

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Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Leo O'Brien Building
Room 821
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Senator Gillibrand,

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