

GABE VASQUEZ  
2ND DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3102

April 11, 2024

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3102  
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION,  
RESEARCH, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

I write today to urge you to take action to prevent any further lapse in funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Any disruption to funding for the program would be devastating for low-income households and Tribal communities in New Mexico.

The ACP provides \$30 per month to low-income households and \$75 per month to Tribal households to access broadband. More than 71,000 households in my district, or 25% of all households, receive this monthly benefit. The ACP has helped make huge gains in closing the digital divide and made telehealth, job applications, and schoolwork more accessible to residents in my district. I have heard from seniors, Tribal community members, and military families about how crucial this funding has been to their ability to get online.

However, by the end of this month, the Federal Communications Commission has stated that they will stop providing the ACP benefit due to insufficient funding. This lapse is unacceptable. I am concerned that any disruption to service may erode trust in the program among recipients and broadband providers, making it harder to enroll participants in the future. Furthermore, disruptions to internet access have real impacts, especially for our rural and Tribal communities. Many New Mexicans can't afford to go for an undetermined period without access to job applications, online tax services, telehealth, or applications for Medicare and Social Security. Access to the internet is a necessity and it makes our communities stronger, healthier, and more prosperous.

The issue of ACP funding has been widely acknowledged by both parties. I am one of more than 220 bipartisan representatives that have cosponsored legislation to extend funding for the ACP. I was also one of more than 150 bipartisan representatives who sent a previous letter to you urging action on ACP funding. I encourage you to find a prompt, bipartisan solution that prioritizes New Mexico's Second District, as well as all Americans that will be affected by a loss in their internet access.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I stand ready to work with you to reach a solution that will fund the ACP into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabe Vasquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gabe" and last name "Vasquez" clearly distinguishable.

Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress