



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH POLICY COALITION

April 20, 2024

The Honorable _____
United States State _____
U.S. Capitol, Room _____
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024 (S.3565/H.R.6929) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator/Congressman/woman _____,

The Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC) writes to express our support for the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension (S. 3565/H.R.6929).

The Northern California Youth Policy Coalition represents youth from over thirty counties across Northern California from the North Coast to the North State to Sacramento. We seek to give a voice to rural youth who feel unheard and a platform to come together to advocate for issues that are most important to our rural youth in Northern California. Our main objective is to ensure that the youth voices of this region are heard on local, regional and state levels, where decisions make a direct impact on our rural communities.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a critical resource for over 22 million low-income Americans. If the program is not extended, 1 in 5 Americans could be affected. The pandemic highlighted how critical it was for youth across the nation to have access to reliable broadband. The ACP has become an essential resource for counties to promote high-speed internet services to underserved communities that lack adoption to broadband services. This structure allows for local decision making to best reflect the needs of a community, especially in unique places like rural and suburban communities. By discontinuing the ACP, Congress is at risk of stalling or backsliding on progress made towards providing high-speed internet access to all Americans.

The ACP is a critical tool for young people across the country, especially for those from economically disadvantaged families who struggle to make ends meet. The everyday lives of our youth are online, whether it's doing research for school projects, communicating with friends and teachers, or applying for colleges and scholarships. In today's digital age, being connected isn't just a luxury – it's a necessity.

For these reasons, the Northern California Youth Policy Coalition urges your support of the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bode Gower
Chair,
Northern California Youth Policy Coalition (NCYPC)

ORGANIZED VOICES FOR RURAL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUTH