

2023-J1684

Senate Resolution No. 1684

BY: Senator PARKER

URGING the United States Congress to support the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) of 2021 which provides our citizens with access to broadband services

WHEREAS, In 2022, the New York State Legislature outlined the principles for the development of broadband, also articulated by Working to Implement Reliable and Equitable Deployment of Broadband Act (WIRED Broadband Act); and

WHEREAS, The Act was created to promote and encourage broadband adoption for households in an effort to transform New York State's digital infrastructure so all residents and businesses have access to high-speed, reliable, and affordable internet for education, economic growth, and full participation in civic life; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's historic investment in broadband infrastructure and digital equity, Congress appropriated more than fourteen billion dollars for the ACP; and

WHEREAS, Congress assigned the Federal Communications Commission to administer the ACP, the successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which helped almost nine million households afford internet access during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Under the ACP, eligible households can receive up to thirty dollars per month discount toward internet services and up to seventy-five dollars per month for households on qualifying tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, Eligible households may also receive a one-time discount of up to one hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than two million eligible households within the state that may qualify for the ACP and over one million households that have enrolled; and

WHEREAS, Based on current take rates, the more than fourteen billion dollars in funding appropriated for the ACP program could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024; and

WHEREAS, The ACP has been a critical tool in helping bridge the "digital divide" that exists between those who have access to modern information and communications technology and those who do not; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body does hereby urge and request each member of the New York Congressional Delegation to support continued funding of the ACP so that low-income New York households can continue to receive the support they need to participate in the digital marketplace; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America; and to

each member of the New York Congressional Delegation.