

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT NEW MEXICO'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SUPPORT
3 FUNDING FOR THE FEDERAL AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM.

4
5 WHEREAS, internet connectivity is essential to the
6 success of families, businesses and government; and

7 WHEREAS, congress created the federal affordable
8 connectivity program in 2021 to make broadband service and
9 connected devices available to lower-income households at
10 discounted prices from internet providers that opt in to
11 participate in the program; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal affordable connectivity program has
13 enabled low-income families to access online educational
14 resources, gain employment opportunities, receive telehealth
15 services and participate in civic life; and

16 WHEREAS, as of January 2024, more than twenty-two
17 million American households rely on the federal affordable
18 connectivity program for access to the internet, many of whom
19 receive broadband access effectively free after the federal
20 affordable connectivity program discount; and

21 WHEREAS, in recent years, the New Mexico legislature has
22 taken significant action to promote access to broadband; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2021, the New Mexico legislature passed the
24 Broadband Access and Expansion Act, which created the office
25 of broadband access and expansion under the department of

1 information technology; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2021, the New Mexico legislature also passed
3 the Connect New Mexico Act with the aim of providing access
4 to the internet to more than thirteen thousand homes,
5 businesses, farms, ranches and community institutions across
6 the state; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2023, New Mexico received over six hundred
8 seventy-five million dollars (\$675,000,000) through the
9 federal broadband equity, access, and deployment program to
10 provide access to high-speed internet to residents of the
11 state; and

12 WHEREAS, approximately one hundred seventy-six thousand
13 households in New Mexico are enrolled in the federal
14 affordable connectivity program; and

15 WHEREAS, this increased internet access allows New
16 Mexicans to access social service programs such as medicaid;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, having access to the internet can allow New
19 Mexicans to also access a higher quality of life; and

20 WHEREAS, despite the benefits of increasing access to
21 internet, current federal affordable connectivity program
22 funding could be exhausted in early 2024; and

23 WHEREAS, the end of the federal affordable connectivity
24 program would impede the success of ongoing federal and state
25 efforts to close the digital divide by halting construction

1 of new infrastructure that otherwise would have helped to
2 reach those in unserved and underserved communities; and

3 WHEREAS, it is crucial for congress and the legislature
4 to continue efforts to modernize and support access to
5 internet connectivity for all New Mexicans, regardless of
6 socioeconomic background;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New
9 Mexico congressional delegation be urged to continue to fund
10 the federal affordable connectivity program to ensure that
11 everyone has access to broadband services; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and the
14 president of the United States. _____

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25