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HOUSE MEMORIAL 46

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, as of January 2024, more than twenty-two million

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1 American households rely on the federal affordable connectivity
2 program for access to the internet, many of whom receive
3 broadband access effectively free after the federal affordable
4 connectivity program discount; and

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

7 WHEREAS, in 2021, the New Mexico legislature passed the
8 Broadband Access and Expansion Act, which created the office of
9 broadband access and expansion under the department of
10 information technology; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2021, the New Mexico legislature also passed
12 the Connect New Mexico Act with the aim of providing access to
13 the internet to more than thirteen thousand homes, businesses,
14 farms, ranches and community institutions across the state; and

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

19 WHEREAS, approximately one hundred seventy-six thousand
20 households in New Mexico are enrolled in the federal affordable
21 connectivity program; and

22 WHEREAS, this increased internet access allows New
23 Mexicans to access social service programs such as medicaid;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, having access to the internet can allow New

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1 Mexicans to also access a higher quality of life; and

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

5 WHEREAS, the end of the federal affordable connectivity
6 program would impede the success of ongoing federal and state
7 efforts to close the digital divide by halting construction of
8 new infrastructure that otherwise would have helped to reach
9 those in unserved and underserved communities; and

10 WHEREAS, it is crucial for congress and the legislature to
11 continue efforts to modernize and support access to internet
12 connectivity for all New Mexicans, regardless of socioeconomic
13 background;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
16 congressional delegation be urged to continue to fund the
17 federal affordable connectivity program to ensure that everyone
18 has access to broadband services; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation and the
21 president of the United States.

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