

2024 -- S 2490

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO EXTEND
FUNDING FOR THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Introduced By: Senator Hanna M. Gallo

Date Introduced: February 14, 2024

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Access to quality and affordable broadband is essential for living in the 21st
2 century, helping Americans do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay
3 connected; and

4 WHEREAS, The Affordable Connectivity Program was created as part of the bipartisan
5 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to help bridge the “digital divide” that exists between
6 those who have access to modern information and communications technology and those who do
7 not; and

8 WHEREAS, The Affordable Connectivity Program supports approximately 23 million
9 low-income families, including more than 80,000 Rhode Island households, providing those
10 eligible with monthly discounts toward Internet services and a one-time discount towards the
11 purchase of a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers; and

12 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has received approximately \$35 million in funding through the
13 Affordable Connectivity Program as of January 2024; and

14 WHEREAS, The \$14 billion dollars appropriated by Congress for the Affordable
15 Connectivity Program faces exhaustion this spring; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby respectfully requests
17 Congress to renew and extend funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program to ensure low-
18 income households continue to have access to high-speed Internet; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby urges and requests each member of the Rhode

1 Island Congressional Delegation to support continued funding of the Affordable Connectivity
2 Program so that low-income Rhode Island households can continue to receive the support they
3 need to participate in the digital marketplace; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
5 transfer duly certified copies of this resolution to the presiding officers of the Senate and the
6 House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of
7 the Rhode Island Congressional delegation.

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