

234 Washington Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Michele Cinquegrano  
Regional Director

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Jacquelyn M. Baginski  
House Innovation, Internet and Technology Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill H7157 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT**

Dear Chairwoman Baginski:

Verizon is committed to digital inclusion and believes that income shouldn't be a barrier to reliable broadband connectivity, and we understand the critical importance of offering accessible and affordable connectivity solutions. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps nearly 23 million households across the nation connect to the internet. There are currently 81,346 Rhode Island households enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Unless Congress provides more funding, the ACP will end in the coming months. The government will stop accepting new applications and enrollments after February 7, 2024.

We believe that it is important for Congress to promote broadband affordability by continuing funding for ACP. We look forward to working with government leaders to find a sustainable solution that keeps low-income families in rural and urban America connected to the internet.

Governor McKee, Mayors Smiley, Rivera and Khamsyvoravong have signed onto letters urging Congress to extend ACP, which I have included.

Thank you to Representative Lombardi for raising this important issue impacting over 80,000 Rhode Island households. If you require any additional information, please contact me at 401-443-1209 or [michele.cinquegrano@verizon.com](mailto:michele.cinquegrano@verizon.com).

Respectfully,

*Michele Cinquegrano*

**verizon**✓