

OFFICERS

HILLARY SCHIEVE

Reno, NV

President

ANDREW J. GINTHER

Columbus, OH

Vice President

DAVID HOLT

Oklahoma City, OK

Second Vice President

PAST PRESIDENTS

FRANCIS X. SUAREZ

Miami, FL

BRYAN K. BARNETT

Rochester Hills, MI

ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ

Burnsville, MN

TRUSTEES

LEIRION GAYLOR BAIRD

Lincoln, NE

J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE

Elizabeth, NJ

LATOYA CANTRELL

New Orleans, LA

JANE CASTOR

Tampa, FL

JOY COOPER

Hallandale Beach, FL

JERRY DYER

Fresno, CA

JOHN GILES

Mesa, AZ

TODD GLORIA

San Diego, CA

TISHAURA O. JONES

St. Louis, MO

JON MITCHELL

New Bedford, MA

AFAB PUREVAL

Cincinnati, OH

STEVEN REED

Montgomery, AL

ACQUANETTA WARREN

Fontana, CA

ADVISORY BOARD

CHRIS BARNETT

Orion Township, MI

KAREN BASS

Los Angeles, CA

JUSTIN BIBB

Cleveland, OH

MURIEL BOWSER

Washington, DC

SHARON WESTON BROOME

Baton Rouge, LA

PAIGE G. COGNETTI

Scranton, PA

BUDDY DYER

Orlando, FL

KATE GALLEGO

Phoenix, AZ

JOE GANIM

Bridgeport, CT

CAROLYN G. GOODMAN

Las Vegas, NV

ABDULLAH HAMMOUD

Dearborn, MI

QUENTIN HART

Waterloo, IA

GERARD HUDSPETH

Denon, TX

TIM KELLER

Albuquerque, NM

LILY MEE

Fremont, CA

CHRISTINA MURIN

Findlay, OH

RON NIRENBERG

San Antonio, TX

MATTIE PARKER

Fort Worth, TX

REX RICHARDSON

Long Beach, CA

JIM ROSS

Arlington, TX

ANDY SCHOR

Lansing, MI

SCOTT SINGER

Boca Raton, FL

BRETT SMILEY

Providence, RI

LEVAR STONEY

Richmond, VA

MATT TUERK

Allentown, PA

BRIAN C. WAHLER

Piscataway, NJ

STEVE WILLIAMS

Huntington, WV

VICTORIA WOODARDS

Tacoma, WA

CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TOM COCHRAN



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of
Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of
Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

We are writing to express our support for extending funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, an essential program that over 23 million families rely on to access quality and affordable high-speed internet.

The Affordable Connectivity Program has been a key tool in our efforts to eliminate the digital divide in America since it was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in 2021. This program itself served as a long-term replacement for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which connected families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit crystallized for many the stark reality of the challenges presented to Americans who lack access to quality and affordable broadband and revealed a need for a long-term solution.

Having quality and affordable broadband has become essential in America. High-speed internet is a necessity for almost every American, connecting people to educational opportunities, telemedicine, and of course, opportunities for work and entrepreneurship. Living in the 21st century means having quality high-speed internet, and the Affordable Connectivity Program helps ensure this for millions of American families.

The fact that the Affordable Connectivity Program was enacted into law as a part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is not lost on us – it's a program that has wide

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

support. From Democrats to Republicans, to rural and urban areas, to the telecommunications industry and all levels of government, the Affordable Connectivity Program is recognized by all as successful.

At this crucial time, we urge Congress to renew and extend the Affordable Connectivity Program funding in 2024 to ensure currently enrolled low-income households continue to have access to affordable high-speed internet. Extending the Affordable Connectivity Program will help close the digital divide, allow Americans to access the resources they need, and strengthen the U.S. economy to compete in the 21st Century.

As America's mayors, we stand ready to continue our support for this program and look forward to continuing this important work to ensure that everyone has access to quality and affordable broadband.

Sincerely,

Hillary Schieve
Reno, NV
President

Andrew J. Ginther
Columbus, OH
Vice President

David Holt
Oklahoma City, OK
Second Vice President

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive
Director

Bruce Harrell
Seattle, WA
Chair, Technology and
Innovation

Lioneld Jordan
Fayetteville, AR

Harold Copenhaver
Jonesboro, AR

Frank D. Scott Jr.
Little Rock, AR

Becky Daggett
Flagstaff, AZ

Jerry Weiers
Glendale, AZ

John Giles
Mesa, AZ

Kate Gallego
Phoenix, AZ

Corey Woods
Tempe, AZ

Regina Romero
Tucson, AZ

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Alameda, CA

Jorgel Chavez
Bell Gardens, CA

Susan Sonne
Buena Park, CA

Susan M. Landry
Campbell, CA

Lily Mei
Fremont, CA

Jerry Dyer
Fresno, CA

Farrah N. Khan
Irvine, CA

Ariel Pe
Lakewood, CA

John P. Marchand
Livermore, CA

Jenelle Osborne
Lompoc, CA

Rex Richardson
Long Beach, CA

Karen Bass
Los Angeles, CA

Eddie De La Riva
Maywood, CA

Sheng Thao
Oakland, CA

Esther C. Sanchez
Oceanside, CA

Michael M. Vargas
Perris, CA

Todd Gloria
San Diego, CA

Matt Mahan
San Jose, CA

Juan Gonzalez
San Leandro, CA

Kate Colin
San Rafael, CA

Lisa M. Gillmor
Santa Clara, CA

Phil Brock
Santa Monica, CA

Ian N. Oglesby
Seaside, CA

James Coleman
South San Francisco,
CA

Nancy Young
Tracy, CA

Sepi Shyne
West Hollywood, CA

Martha Guerrero
West Sacramento, CA

Tania Garcia-Cadena
Woodland, CA

Aaron Brockett
Boulder, CO

Greg Mills
Brighton, CO

Yemi Mobolade
Colorado Springs, CO

Justin Brooks
Erie, CO

Wendi Strom
Lakewood, CO

Kyle Schlachter
Littleton, CO

Joe Ganim
Bridgeport, CT

Arunan Arulampalam
Hartford, CT

Harry Rilling
Norwalk, CT

Shari Cantor
West Hartford, CT

Michael S. Purzycki
Wilmington, DE

Jeffrey Freimark
Bal Harbour Village, FL

Bill Ganz
Deerfield Beach, FL

Santiago Avila Jr.
Deltona, FL

Julie Ward Bujalski
Dunedin, FL

Joy Cooper
Hallandale Beach, FL

Betty Resch
Lake Worth Beach, FL

Frank C. Ortis
Pembroke Pines, FL

Kenneth Welch
St. Petersburg, FL

John E. Dailey
Tallahassee, FL

Jane Castor
Tampa, FL

Kevin McCann
Winter Springs, FL

Michael Owens
Mableton, GA

Vince R. Williams
Union City, GA

Brad M. Cavanagh
Dubuque, IA

Quentin M. Hart
Waterloo, IA

Lauren McLean
Boise, ID

Katrina R. Thompson
Broadview, IL

Deborah Frank Feinen
Champaign, IL

Brandon Johnson
Chicago, IL

Nancy Rotering
Highland Park, IL

William 'Bill' D.
McLeod
Hoffman Estates, IL

Sangeetha Rayapati
Moline, IL

Rita Ali
Peoria, IL

John D. Noak
Romeoville, IL

Chad Jason Ashmore
Sesser, IL

Thomas 'Tom' C.
Henry
Fort Wayne, IN

Mark W. Myers
Greenwood, IN

Jeff M. Gahan
New Albany, IN

James Mueller
South Bend, IN

Bart Littlejohn
Lawrence, KS

Julie Sayers
Lenexa, KS

Craig Greenberg
Louisville, KY

Michelle Wu
Boston, MA

Robert F. Sullivan
Brockton, MA

Samantha Squailia
Fitchburg, MA

Jon Mitchell
New Bedford, MA

Gavin Buckley
Annapolis, MD

Michael O'Connor
Frederick, MD

Jeffrey Z. Slavin
Somerset, MD

Marcus Muhammad
Benton Harbor, MI

Mike Duggan
Detroit, MI

David Anderson
Kalamazoo, MI

Andy Schor
Lansing, MI

Tim Busse
Bloomington, MN

Elizabeth B. Kautz
Burnsville, MN

Ron Case
Eden Prairie, MN

James B. Hovland
Edina, MN

Melvin Carter
St. Paul, MN

Quinton Lucas
Kansas City, MO

Tishaura O. Jones
St. Louis, MO

Ramon 'RB' Jose Blas
Camacho
Saipan, MP

Chokwe Antar
Lumumba Esq.
Jackson, MS

George Flaggs Jr.
Vicksburg, MS

Jessica Anderson
Chapel Hill, NC

Leonardo Williams
Durham, NC

Cyril Jefferson
High Point, NC

Dontario 'Don' Hardy
Kinston, NC

TJ Cawley
Morrisville, NC

Mary-Ann Baldwin
Raleigh, NC

Tim Mahoney
Fargo, ND

Ras J. Baraka
Newark, NJ

Francis 'Mac' Womack
III
North Brunswick, NJ

Brian C. Wahler
Piscataway, NJ

Tim Keller
Albuquerque, NM

Alan Webber
Santa Fe, NM

Javier Perea
Sunland Park, NM

Lori Bagwell
Carson City, NV

Carolyn Goodman
Las Vegas, NV

Kathy M. Sheehan
Albany, NY

Robert Cantelmo
Ithaca, NY

Shawyn Patterson-
Howard
Mount Vernon, NY

Robert Restaino
Niagara Falls, NY

Vivian C. McKenzie
Peekskill, NY

Gary R. McCarthy
Schenectady, NY

Ben Walsh
Syracuse, NY

Thomas M. Roach
White Plains, NY

Shammas Malik
Akron, OH

Aftab Pureval
Cincinnati, OH

Justin Bibb
Cleveland, OH

Kahlil Seren
Cleveland Heights, OH

Jeffrey J. Mims Jr.
Dayton, OH

Sharetta Smith
Lima, OH

Jack W. Bradley
Lorain, OH

Joe Begeny
Reynoldsburg, OH

Wade Kapszukiewicz
Toledo, OH

William 'Doug'
Franklin
Warren, OH

Jamael Tito Brown
Youngstown, OH

Lacey Beaty
Beaverton, OR

Lucy K. Vinis
Eugene, OR

Travis Stovall
Gresham, OR

Steve Callaway
Hillsboro, OR

Ted Wheeler
Portland, OR

Heidi Lueb
Tigard, OR

Matt Tuerk
Allentown, PA

Joe Schember
Erie, PA

Paige G. Cognetti
Scranton, PA

Maria Rivera
Central Falls, RI

Xaykham
Khamsyvoravong
Newport, RI

Brett P. Smiley
Providence, RI

John J. Tecklenburg
Charleston, SC

Paul TenHaken
Sioux Falls, SD

Indya Kincannon
Knoxville, TN

Freddie O'Connell
Nashville, TN

Jim Ross
Arlington, TX

John Cowen Jr.
Brownsville, TX

Rachel L. Proctor
DeSoto, TX

Mattie Parker
Fort Worth, TX

John Whitmire
Houston, TX

Javier Villalobos
McAllen, TX

George Fuller
McKinney, TX

Blake Margolis
Rowlett, TX

Ron Nirenberg
San Antonio, TX

Derrick R. Wood
Dumfries, VA

Levar Stoney
Richmond, VA

Jack McCollough
Montpelier, VT

Nancy Backus
Auburn, WA

Dontae Payne
Olympia, WA

Angela Birney
Redmond, WA

Victoria Woodards
Tacoma, WA

Anne McEnery-Ogle
Vancouver, WA

Satya Rhodes-Conway
Madison, WI

Cavalier Johnson
Milwaukee, WI