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For Immediate Release

COMMISSIONER GOMEZ URGES ACTION AS FUNDING FOR THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM ENDS

WASHINGTON, May 31, 2024—Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Anna M. Gomez today issued the following statement on the end of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) due to a lack of additional Congressional funding:

“The bipartisan Affordable Connectivity Program is the most successful tool we’ve ever had to close the digital divide. Thanks to the Affordable Connectivity Program, over 23 million households across the United States have benefited from high-speed Internet connectivity. Today, unfortunately, funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program lapses. As of June 1, millions of households will lose support for the connectivity they have come to rely on for work, school, and health care. Millions may face rising bills and increasing disconnection from Internet service.

We know that high-speed Internet service is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for all families, no matter who they are or where they live. The ACP benefited every corner of the country – from rural, urban, and suburban to communities on Tribal lands as well as Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities – and it has been key to connecting communities historically on the wrong side of the digital divide.

The end of the ACP will undo the significant progress we have made toward closing the divide and harm millions of Americans. Not only that, but it will have economic and competitive consequences for our country if we fail to maximize the \$42.5 billion investment we’ve made in broadband infrastructure through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program. It is, as they say, penny wise and pound foolish.

Connectivity has never been more important. By ensuring that all Americans can afford high-speed Internet, the ACP is an investment in our nation’s prosperity and the promise of opportunity for all. It is critical that Congress act to save the ACP and keep the progress made to close the digital divide.”

In a statement today, the FCC announced that due to a lack of additional Congressional funding, the agency will officially end the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) on June 1, 2024.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).