



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Katrina Shankland**  
71<sup>st</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

May 22, 2024

Senator Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tammy Baldwin  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Derrick Van Orden  
1513 Longworth H.O.B  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Johnson, Senator Baldwin, and Representative Van Orden:

In 2021, the U.S. Congress passed and President Biden signed [H.R. 3684](#), the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill, into law. Included in the legislation was \$14.2 billion in federal funding to create and implement the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#), expanding affordable internet access to more than 22,000,000 modest-income households throughout the United States.

In Wisconsin, this program is administered by the [Public Service Commission](#), and more than 420,000 households rely on it for affordable high-speed internet access. The reality is that high-speed internet access is no longer a luxury, rather it is a necessity for participating in our modern society and economy.

Today, throughout Wisconsin, students, adults, seniors, and businesses depend on high-speed internet for various reasons. However, the severe dysfunction and partisan gridlock occurring in the U.S. House of Representatives is threatening internet access for every American household participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

In January of 2024, the Federal Communications Commission [announced](#) that without continued funding, the Affordable Connectivity Program would exhaust all funds by May 2024, meaning that would be the final month of qualified households receiving benefits. For these modest-income folks, the choice will be stretching their household budgets even further or giving up internet access altogether.

Many of your constituents, Republicans, Democrats, and independents alike, depend on the Affordable Connectivity Program. I know this because many of them are my constituents as well, and they contact me with concerns about what it will mean for them and their families should this program end. I fear that the childlike behavior we have all been forced to witness in the lower chamber has overshadowed the needs of working families, fixed-income seniors, and small businesses.

However, there is an opportunity, in providing sustainable funding to the Affordable Connectivity Program to demonstrate to Wisconsin residents that government can, in fact, work for them. As a fellow elected official, I strongly urge you to prioritize funding this critically important and commonsense program.

Thank you for your service to the State of Wisconsin, and please do not hesitate to contact me at [Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Shankland@legis.wisconsin.gov) or (608) 267-9649 should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Katrina Shankland  
State Representative  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District