

House Resolution 870

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63rd, Kendrick of the 95th, Scott of the 76th, Davis of the 87th, and Hutchinson of the 106th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Congress to renew or extend the Affordable Connectivity Program through 2024 so
2 that all qualifying households in Georgia will have access to affordable high-speed internet
3 service; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, equity in education, in healthcare, in the workforce, and in all aspects of modern
5 life is only achievable if one has a computer, an internet connection, and digital skills; and

6 WHEREAS, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) was enacted through the bipartisan
7 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 to make high-speed internet plans more
8 affordable for consumers and to encourage internet service providers (ISPs) to invest in more
9 communities; and

10 WHEREAS, ISPs that receive federal infrastructure deployment funds are mandated to
11 participate in the ACP so that future customers will not be priced out of those new
12 connections; and

13 WHEREAS, the ACP has provided \$14.2 billion in support since its inception, allowing over
14 20 million American households to benefit from the ACP, including 625,000 households in
15 Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, many households in Georgia risk disconnection from their internet service if
17 the ACP is not continued, leaving those families without access to healthcare services, school
18 programming, and workforce opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, polls have shown that over 75 percent of voters support funding for the ACP,
20 including overwhelming support across political ideologies; and

21 WHEREAS, unless Congress acts to renew or extend the ACP, its funds will be exhausted
22 by spring in 2024, leaving millions of Americans without affordable access to internet
23 service; and

24 WHEREAS, without the ACP, American tax dollars will be supporting the growth of for
25 profit ISPs with no public benefit; and

26 WHEREAS, on January 11, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission announced that
27 it will wind down the ACP and will stop accepting new enrollments on February 7, 2024,
28 unless Congress appropriates additional funding.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body acknowledge the importance of digital equity for all citizens and
31 urge Congress to renew or extend the Affordable Connectivity Program through 2024, so that
32 all qualifying households in Georgia will have access to affordable high-speed internet
33 service.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to

36 members of the Georgia congressional delegation and the chairpersons and ranking members
37 of the house and senate appropriations committees.