

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Adam Cassady  
Acting Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information  
Administration  
1401 Constitutions Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Acting Administrator Cassady:

We write to express our strong opposition to the Department of Commerce's abrupt and illegal decision to terminate the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program and the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, as authorized under the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021*. This decision ignores congressional intent, undermines Georgia communities where the digital divide remains a significant barrier to opportunity, and violates the public trust. We urge you to immediately restore grants awarded for digital inclusion efforts in Georgia and resume immediate review of all pending applications.

Under the IIJA, Congress appropriated \$2.75 billion for grants to close our nation's growing digital divide. The law was written to address the primary barriers keeping Americans offline—a lack of affordable access to broadband services, digital training, one-on-one technical support, and device distribution to underserved households. Georgia has relied on this critical funding to begin bridging the digital divide in both rural and urban communities. Grants have been vital to help establish programs for millions of Georgians to find jobs, access telehealth care, and learn digital workforce skills to compete in the global economy.

In 2023, nearly \$1.1 million in Digital Equity funding helped develop the Georgia Digital Equity Plan, a bipartisan initiative which engaged over 5,000 residents in underserved counties. Local organizations in Clayton, Chatham, Dougherty, and Hall Counties had pending grant applications focused on elder outreach, digital workforce skills, and inclusive broadband deployment. More than \$46 million in state funding now hangs in limbo due to NTIA's arbitrary termination—leaving thousands of Georgians without the tools needed to participate in a modern economy.

The Administration's characterization of this vital program as a “woke handout based on race” reflects a strong misunderstanding of the goal of these programs and who benefits from its funding. Seniors, Veterans, low-income families, Tribal and rural communities, people with disabilities, and other digitally underserved groups all qualify for grants. In Georgia, this encompasses 86.7% of our constituents.

We urge the Department move to immediately reinstate both the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program and State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program and comply with both the letter and spirit of the IIJA. Congress provided this funding to NTIA with the expectation that states

like Georgia would have equal opportunity to compete for these resources to close persistent digital divides.

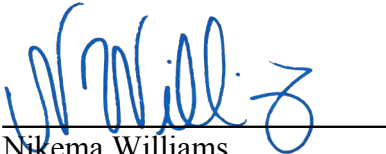
Georgia families, students, veterans, seniors, and small businesses cannot wait any longer. Ending these grants will leave Georgia communities stranded and in the digital dark. They deserve equitable access to opportunity and this decision threatens to take that away.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and respectfully request a response within 10 business days.

Sincerely,



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



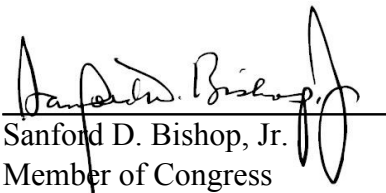
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress