

HR 6474

Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Apr 10, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. (Apr 10, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6474>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (28 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Apr 10, 2020
Rep. Axne, Cynthia [D-IA-3]	D · IA		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Cox, TJ [D-CA-21]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Levin, Mike [D-CA-49]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Apr 14, 2020
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Apr 17, 2020
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Apr 17, 2020
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Apr 17, 2020
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Apr 17, 2020
Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]	D · VA		Apr 21, 2020
Rep. Neguse, Joe [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Apr 21, 2020
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Apr 24, 2020
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Apr 24, 2020
Rep. Rouda, Harley [D-CA-48]	D · CA		Apr 24, 2020
Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1]	D · NC		May 1, 2020
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		May 1, 2020
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		May 1, 2020
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		May 5, 2020
Del. San Nicolas, Michael F. Q. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		May 8, 2020
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		May 12, 2020
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		May 27, 2020
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		May 28, 2020
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Dec 18, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 10, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6800	Related bill	Jul 23, 2020: Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 116-517.
116 S 3838	Related bill	May 21, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act

This bill temporarily expands the Rural Health Care Program of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in response to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019). It also establishes and provides funding for the Emergency Rural Health Care Connectivity Fund through FY2022 to carry out the Rural Health Care Program.

Currently, the FCC subsidizes 65% of the cost of broadband for eligible public and nonprofit rural health care facilities through the Rural Health Care Program. This bill expands the program to encompass health care providers not located in rural areas, including mobile and temporary facilities, and it increases the subsidy rate to 85%.

The bill also requires the FCC to (1) promulgate regulations to expedite the receipt of funds under the program, and (2) release funding for all requests within a designated time frame.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 10, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 10, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.