

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

Business Meeting Summary – 2-28-2023

Convened: 11:08 a.m.
Recessed: 1:47 p.m.
Reconvened: 3:19 p.m.
Recessed: 3:42 p.m.
Reconvened: 4:01 p.m.
Adjourned: 4:41 p.m.

Members present: Comer, Jordan, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Palmer, Higgins, Session, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison, Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, and Moskowitz.

H. R. 140, THE “PROTECTING SPEECH FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT”

A bill “to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit Federal employees from advocating for censorship of viewpoints in their official capacity, and for other purposes.”

1. Mr. Comer offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) that would make certain technical changes to the bill, would establish a reporting requirement for federal employees that utilize the exception for legitimate law enforcement functions, would expand the jurisdiction of the Office of Special Counsel, and would establish a rule of construction. The amendment in the nature of a substitute passed by voice vote.
2. Mr. Raskin offered his first amendment to the ANS that would expand the definition of ‘entity’ within the definition of ‘censorship’ to include ‘media organizations’ (including newspapers, magazines, radio, television). The amendment failed by a Roll Call vote of 19-22 (Vote #1).

YEAS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

NAYS: Comer, Foxx, Grothman, Higgins, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison.

3. Mr. Lynch offered an amendment to the ANS that would add the phrase ‘national security’ to the exception for legitimate law enforcement functions. The amendment failed by a Roll Call vote of 19-22 (Vote #2).

YEAS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

NAYS: Comer, Foxx, Grothman, Higgins, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison.

4. Ms. Balint offered an amendment to the ANS that would add an additional rule of construction that would state that the Act would not prohibit federal employees from addressing harassment, enforcing nondiscrimination laws, and censoring speech that they classify as misinformation intended to incite violence. The amendment failed by Roll Call vote of 19-22 (Vote #3).

YEAS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

NAYS: Comer, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison.

5. Ms. Porter offered an amendment to the ANS that would add the facilitation and distribution of scientific information to the exception for legitimate law enforcement functions. The amendment failed by a Roll Call vote of 20-21 (Vote #4).

YEAS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

NAYS: Comer, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison.

6. Mr. Goldman offered his first amendment to the ANS that would expand the U.S. Office of Special Counsel’s enforcement capabilities of the Hatch Act to include criminal penalties. The amendment failed by voice vote.

7. Mr. Moskowitz offered an amendment to the ANS that would add actions to prevent the incitement of violence related to neo nazi groups to the exception for legitimate law enforcement functions. The amendment failed by a Roll Call vote of 20-21 (Vote #5).

YEAS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

NAYS: Comer, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison.

8. Mr. Goldman offered his second amendment to the ANS that would add defending elections from interference from malign actors to the exception for legitimate law enforcement functions. The amendment failed by a Roll Call vote of 20-22 (Vote #6).

YEAS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

NAYS: Comer, Jordan, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison.

9. Mr. Raskin offered his second amendment to the ANS that would add an additional rule of construction that would state that the Act would not restrict or amend the right of a private entity to create policies that dictate an individual's use of its service. The amendment failed by a Roll Call vote of 20-22 (Vote #7).

YEAS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

NAYS: Comer, Jordan, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edwards, Langworthy, Burlison.

[Mr. Raskin U.C. for the record: 2-16-23 Wall Street Journal article]

[Mr. Raskin U.C. for the record: 5-19-20 CNN article]

[Mr. Donalds U.C. for the record: 2-1-22 Politico article]

[Mr. Donalds U.C. for the record: 2-8-22 Miami Herald article]

[Mr. Comer U.C. for the record: Emails]

The bill, H.R. 140, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by Roll Call vote of 24-20 (Vote #8).

YEAS: Comer, Jordan, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Palmer, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edawards, Langworthy, Burlison.

NAYS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

H. R. 1162 (Perry), THE “ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP ACT”

A bill “to require the Office of Management and Budget to report to Congress on actions taken by Executive branch employees to censor lawful speech, and for other purposes.”

1. Mr. Comer offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS).

The ANS was agreed to by voice vote. The bill, H.R. 1162, as amended, was ordered favorably reported by Roll Call vote of 24-20 (Vote #9).

YEAS: Comer, Jordan, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Palmer, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, LaTurner, Fallon, Donalds, Armstrong, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, McClain, Boebert, Fry, Luna, Edawards, Langworthy, Burlison.

NAYS: Raskin, Norton, Lynch, Connolly, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Ocasio-Cortez, Porter, Brown, Gomez, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Balint, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Goldman, Moskowitz.

AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

The Authorization and Oversight Plan for the Committee on Oversight and Accountability for the 118th Congress.

The Authorization and Oversight Plan was agreed to by voice vote.