

**Opening Statement of Chairman Greg Walden**  
**Full Committee Markup on H.R. 3477, H.R. 1876, and H.R. 4986**  
**February 14, 2018**

Today we're here to consider three thoughtful pieces of legislation originating from three of our distinguished subcommittees. Collectively, each of these bills exemplify the hard-working, bipartisan nature of this committee and I'm hopeful we can quickly advance these solutions today.

Two of the three bills under consideration are sponsored by our Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Marsha Blackburn, one of which is a bill to reauthorize the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). For a quarter of a century, the FCC has gone without being reauthorized. Today we take a significant step to changing that. This bill will accomplish several important tasks and also comes with a very special name.

The Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act, more specifically, **RAY BAUM's ACT**, is a nod to my dear friend of nearly 30 years and the former staff director of this committee, who recently passed away peacefully after a years' long battle with cancer.

I would note for my colleagues, we were able to drop a couple items from the reauthorization, *Rural Call Completion* and *Kari's Law*, as those items are already on their way to the president for signature as separate bills.

And while last but certainly not least, it will include the REPACK language you have heard myself and Mr. Pallone long champion. By making sure we properly relocate broadcasters displaced in the incentive auction, we add further legitimacy to future spectrum actions and other improvements in communications policy.

Years ago, when I became chairman of what was then called the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, Ray came back to Washington to work for the Energy and Commerce Committee as Senior Policy Advisor. In the years that followed, these issues remained both a priority and a passion for Ray, and I believe our bipartisan work today reflects the kind of commitment he wanted all of us to share in making good public policy.

Also authored by Ms. Blackburn, we'll consider H.R. 1876, the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act. This bill will help improve the emergency response of trained health professionals by providing some limited liability protections for health practitioners providing care to those in a federally declared disaster.

We recently experienced an extremely destructive and deadly hurricane season as well as devastating wildfires in Oregon and throughout much of the West. Natural disasters and other large-scale emergencies require an all-hands-on-deck effort when rescue crews are overloaded treating victims. The willingness of qualified volunteers to offer their expertise to those in need should not be deterred by the fear of liability actions against them.

By filling in some gaps in our current liability protections, we can help speed up the process of getting qualified medical personnel on the ground. I'd like to thank Chairman Blackburn for working on this issue in a thoughtful bipartisan manner to get the bill where it is today.

While ceiling fan regulations may not be a front burner issue for Congress, getting them right is important for the companies that make them and the consumers that use them. As we learned at our November 7<sup>th</sup> hearing, DOE decided to tighten the energy efficiency standards for ceiling fan light kit standards in 2019 but did not make changes to the underlying ceiling fans for one more year, in 2020. The two deadlines make compliance more difficult than necessary for some manufacturers and retailers. Mr. Hudson's H.R. 3477 would harmonize the two deadlines by setting both at January 21, 2020. This will facilitate compliance and may lead to lower prices for some models.

Today, we have a great opportunity to make meaningful reforms to our public health efforts and for the health care professionals serving our communities, to provide certainty to our manufacturers, and to increase transparency and accountability at the FCC. With that, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting these three bipartisan bills.