

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.

Markup of 13 Bills, Full Committee

March 4, 2025

Today, the Committee is marking up 12 bills that passed out this Committee and the full House last Congress with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, they never became law because the Republican-led House was the most ineffective Congress since the Great Depression.

I support all these bills and hope that we can get them to the House floor soon. I'd like to particularly discuss one bill – the Awning Safety Act, which would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to create a mandatory safety standard for fixed and freestanding retractable awnings. Today, there is no standard, voluntary or mandatory, for these awnings and injuries continue to mount. Two years ago, Dr. Michael Knat, the father of five, including a former Energy and Commerce Committee staff member, tragically died as the result of an incident involving a retractable awning. We must act to ensure that other American families do not suffer the same fate because of problems with retractable awnings.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.