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6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 7757, KIDS INTERNET AND DIGITAL SAFETY (KIDS) ACT;

8 H.R. 2657, SAMMY'S LAW;

9 H.R. 6291, CHILDREN AND TEENS' ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT;

10 H.R. 3149, APP STORE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT;

11 H.R. 7258, ENERGY EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP ACT;

12 H.R. 7266, RURAL AND MUNICIPAL UTILITY CYBERSECURITY ACT;

13 H.R. 7257, SECURING COMMUNITY UPGRADES FOR A RESILIENT GRID

14 (SECURE GRID) ACT;

15 H.R. 7272, PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS ACT; AND

16 H.R. 7305, ENERGY THREAT ANALYSIS CENTER ACT OF 2026

17 THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

18 House of Representatives,

19 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

20 Washington, D.C.

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24 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:02 a.m. in
25 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie
26 [chair of the committee] presiding.

27

28 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Latta, Griffith,
29 Bilirakis, Hudson, Carter of Georgia, Palmer, Dunn, Joyce,
30 Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger, Harshbarger,
31 Miller-Meeks, Cammack, Obernolte, James, Bentz, Houchin, Fry,
32 Lee, Langworthy, Kean, Rulli, Evans, Goldman, Fedorchak;
33 Pallone, DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor, Tonko, Clarke,
34 Ruiz, Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kelly, Barragan, Soto,
35 Schrier, Trahan, Fletcher, Ocasio-Cortez, Auchincloss, Carter
36 of Louisiana, Menendez, Mullin, Landsman, and McClellan.

37 Staff Present: Jessica Donlon, General Counsel; Michael
38 Essington, Chief Counsel; Matt Furlow, Counsel; Andrew
39 Furman, Professional Staff Member; Sydney Greene, Director of
40 Finance and Logistics; Natalie Hellman, Professional Staff
41 Member; Annabelle Huffman, Clerk; Calvin Huggins, Clerk;
42 Megan Jackson, Staff Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk; AT
43 Johnson, Special Advisor; Adam Joseph, Digital Director;
44 Daniel Kelly; Press Secretary; Sophie Khanahmadi, Deputy
45 Staff Director; Alex Khlopin, Policy Analyst; Brayden
46 Lacefield, Special Assistant; Giulia Leganski, Chief Counsel;
47 Mary Martin, Chief Counsel; Sarah Meier, Counsel and
48 Parliamentarian; Joel Miller, Chief Counsel; Lillian Noland,
49 Staff Assistant; Brice Ogle, Special Assistant; Evangelos
50 Razis, Professional Staff Member; Seth Ricketts, Clerk;
51 Jackson Rudden, Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member
52 Services/Stakeholder Director; Peter Spencer, Senior

53 Professional Staff Member; Timothy Trimble, Staff Assistant;
54 Matt VanHyfte, Communications Director; Jane Vickers, Press
55 Assistant; Katie West, Press Secretary; Hannah Anton,
56 Minority Policy Analyst; Keegan Cardman, Minority Staff
57 Assistant; Giancarlo Ceja, Minority Staff Assistant; Kelly
58 Fabian, Chief Counsel, CMT; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy
59 Staff Director and General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio,
60 Minority Staff Director; Jackson Hall, Minority Intern; Perry
61 Hamilton, Minority Member Services and Outreach; Megan Kanne,
62 Minority Professional Staff Member; Kristopher Pittard,
63 Minority Professional Staff Member; Emma Roehrig, Minority
64 Staff Assistant; Kylea Rogers, Minority Policy Analyst;
65 Phoebe Rouge, Minority FTC Detailee; Andrew Souvall, Minority
66 Director of Communications, Outreach, and Member Services;
67 Medha Surampudy, Minority Professional Staff Member; Hannah
68 Treger, Minority Staff Assistant; Kyle Wolf, Minority Press
69 Intern; and Tuley Wright, Minority Staff Director, ENG.
70

71 *The Chair. The committee will come to order. Before
72 we begin I would like to take a moment to address our guests
73 in the audience.

74 Thank you for being here. We appreciate everybody being
75 here. We think engaged citizens are welcomed, and you are a
76 very valuable part of our process. So I appreciate it. But
77 I do want to remind our guests in the audience that the chair
78 is obligated under the Rules of the House and the rules of
79 the committee to maintain order and preserve decorum in the
80 committee room. I know that we all have deep feelings on
81 these issues, that we all may not agree on everything, but I
82 ask that we all abide by these rules and be respectful of our
83 audience members, our viewers, and our witnesses. The chair
84 appreciates the audience's cooperation in maintaining order
85 as we have a full discussion of these issues.

86 So the chair will now recognize -- I will recognize
87 myself for an opening statement, five minutes.

88 As people, as a committee, and as a Congress, there are
89 few things that are more essential than our responsibility to
90 protect our children. Today the harms kids face online are
91 complex, they are immense, and they are constantly changing.

92 In August of 2025 the ranking member and I sat down and
93 made a commitment to try to deliver a bipartisan package to
94 empower parents and to protect children and teens online. We
95 both recognize the gravity of the issue. We both recognize

96 that parents across this country are asking for action.
97 Since that time the bipartisan committee staff has spent more
98 than 40 hours directly negotiating these bills, and countless
99 more working with members on this committee, stakeholders,
100 and each other to build consensus, dozens of hours of
101 negotiation, drafts, redlines, counter-proposals, serious
102 engagement, and good-faith efforts. And I am disappointed
103 that, despite all that work, we are ultimately unable to
104 reach a bipartisan agreement.

105 This committee has a long history of working across the
106 aisle on issues affecting children and families. In the past
107 we have shown that when the stakes are high enough we can put
108 politics aside and work together. And that is why it is
109 unfortunate that the slate of bills today before us is not
110 bipartisan.

111 But at the end of the day, Members of Congress, our
112 responsibility is to our constituents, especially our
113 children. Across the country children are being targeted,
114 groomed, harassed, and exploited online. Algorithms amplify
115 addictive, harmful content. Predators explore anonymity, and
116 parents are left trying to navigate a digital world that
117 evolves faster than the safeguards they have at their
118 disposal. Every month we delay, more families experience the
119 kind of devastation that no parent should ever endure.

120 We worked hard to try to make these bills bipartisan.

121 We meant it when we once said we wanted to get there. But
122 the absence of a bipartisan consensus cannot be an excuse for
123 inaction. We hoped to do this with our Democratic
124 colleagues, but if we cannot do it together we still must
125 move forward, and the time is now. We are taking the
126 meaningful steps forward to empower parents and protect
127 children and teens online. We owe it to parents. We owe it
128 to communities. And most importantly, we owe it to the kids
129 who are counting on us to get this right.

130 Today we will also mark up five bills from the Energy
131 Subcommittee which will help ensure the fiscal and
132 cybersecurity of one of America's greatest forms of
133 infrastructure: our electric grid.

134 As more and more of our lives become digital, the
135 physical and cybersecurity threats to our grid grow in
136 frequency and impact, particularly from adverse nation-
137 states. These bipartisan cybersecurity bills will help
138 combat those threats by strengthening DoE's leadership when
139 it comes to securing the energy sector, providing targeted
140 funding and technical assistance to rural and municipal
141 utilities, and authorizing public-private partnerships on
142 grid security to enhance information sharing.

143 I appreciate the willingness of the Ranking Member
144 Pallone and Castor -- and Ranking Member Castor to work with
145 us on these important bills, and I look forward to moving

146 them forward together.

147 Thank you, and I now yield to the ranking member of the
148 full committee, my good friend, Mr. Pallone, the gentleman
149 from New Jersey.

150 You are recognized for five minutes for your opening
151 statement.

152 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

153 Everyone in this room shares the important goal of
154 protecting our nation's kids as they navigate the online
155 world. And over the past several months I have engaged in
156 aggressive bipartisan talks with Chairman Guthrie and his
157 staff to address the risk children and teens face as they
158 live increasingly digital-centered lives. And I am
159 disappointed that we were not able to come to bipartisan
160 agreement on the bills before us today.

161 Unfortunately, committee Republicans have chosen to move
162 forward with a set of partisan bills that simply do not meet
163 the mark for kids' safety and, if they become law, would
164 leave kids and their parents worse off than they are today,
165 in my opinion. And that is right, I really believe that
166 these bills would leave our kids less safe online than they
167 are today.

168 I believe that Republicans are handing big tech a giant
169 gift by walking away from the stronger preemption standards
170 that were previously included in these bills. The new

171 preemption standards are inadequate to allow states to pass
172 stronger laws to do more to protect kids, and this is really
173 important, especially as we consider how quickly technology
174 can evolve with artificial intelligence.

175 Even worse, the preemption provisions could harm
176 existing efforts to protect kids by holding companies like
177 Meta and Roblox accountable in the courts. Just last month
178 Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified in a landmark trial about
179 social media addiction and harm. And we need to preserve
180 these avenues for justice for kids and parents who have
181 suffered unspeakable harms, including many of the parents in
182 the room with us today. The Republican bills could prevent
183 these avenues from even being open, leaving Meta and other
184 big tech companies unaccountable for the harms that they
185 inflict on our kids.

186 Republicans have also included a giant loophole for big
187 tech with their knowledge standard. This standard allows
188 tech companies and companies that collect kids' data to
189 continue to claim that they lacked actual knowledge or
190 willfully disregarded knowledge that kids are using on their
191 platforms. Republicans are letting big tech off the hook by
192 letting them say they don't know they have kids on their
193 platforms, but nobody really believes that. But Republicans
194 want to let big tech get away with ridiculous claims. With
195 an impossible-to-meet knowledge standard, enforcement becomes

196 extremely difficult.

197 So these bills also threaten kids in unsupportive or
198 even abusive households, where there can be real-world harms
199 from allowing parents complete access and control over their
200 teens online existence. These Republican bills let big tech
201 off the hook, they stop progress to protect kids, and they
202 make vulnerable kids less safe, and that is why I can't
203 support them today.

204 Finally, I am disappointed that the slate of bills we
205 are considering today does not include my Don't Sell Kids'
206 Data Act, a straightforward bill that would have banned data
207 brokers from profiting off of kids' data. And while I cannot
208 support these bills today, I hope we can continue to work, as
209 the chairman has suggested, to improve all the bills so that
210 they actually protect kids. And I am committed to this
211 issue, as I have always been, but we have to get it right.
212 Our kids depend on it.

213 We will also be marking up five bipartisan energy
214 cybersecurity bills on the agenda today. We are facing
215 unprecedented challenges to the reliability of our power
216 grid. The bills we are marking up help us address some of
217 the cybersecurity concerns that we are currently facing. And
218 while there is still more work to be done, I am encouraged to
219 see bipartisan interest in moving these policies forward.

220 Three of the bills amend or reauthorize important

221 programs that were established in the Bipartisan
222 Infrastructure Law. We are also marking up legislation that
223 ensures the Department of Energy has the authorities it needs
224 to enhance energy security.

225 The Department of Energy and Secretary Wright have a lot
226 to prove to us when it comes to protecting our energy
227 security. The Trump Administration has spent its efforts
228 canceling much-needed investments in our power grid, even as
229 our need for more reliable energy only grows, and this cannot
230 continue. One of the programs we are reauthorizing today had
231 millions in funding for rural electric cooperatives and
232 municipal utilities that were held up for countless months
233 due to senseless delays at Trump's Department of Energy.

234 If we want the programs we reauthorizing to succeed, we
235 have to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

236 And so with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance
237 of my time.

238 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
239 will remind members that, pursuant to the committee rules,
240 all members' opening statements will be made part of the
241 record. Are there further opening statements?

242 The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for three minutes
243 for an opening statement.

244 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,
245 and I am pleased that today's markup has the five bipartisan

246 energy security bills to address cyber and physical threats
247 to our nation's energy infrastructure.

248 Throughout the 119th Congress, the Energy Subcommittee
249 has spent considerable time examining the evolving threat
250 landscape facing our energy system. American families and
251 businesses rely on secure, reliable, and affordable energy
252 supplies in their everyday lives. The legislation before us
253 today will protect our nation's critical infrastructure by
254 ensuring government and private-sector partners are equipped
255 with the resources and authorities needed to identify,
256 assess, and address attacks on our energy infrastructure.

257 The interconnected nature of our energy system requires
258 constant intelligence-sharing, clear visibility into threat
259 landscapes, and sufficient resources to fill gaps in security
260 protections particularly for rural and small utility service
261 territories. Our bipartisan legislation seeks to do just
262 that.

263 H.R. 7272, the Pipeline Cybersecurity Preparedness Act,
264 and H.R. 7258, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, rightly
265 enhance the Department of Energy's existing role in physical
266 and cyber threat protection as the sector risk management
267 agency for the energy industry.

268 In addition, H.R. 7305, the Energy Threat Analysis
269 Center Act, and H.R. 7266, the Rural and Municipal Utility
270 Cybersecurity Act, aid information-sharing efforts for threat

271 detection and equip small and rural operators with the
272 necessary resources to protect their systems.

273 H.R. 7257, the SECURE Grid Act, which I sponsored with
274 the gentlelady from California's 7th congressional district,
275 will modernize state energy security plans to take a holistic
276 view of potential threats facing states.

277 All together, the bipartisan legislation before us
278 builds upon the important work being done across the country,
279 and will ensure a more secure and resilient system as we
280 enter into an era of skyrocketing energy demands.

281 Mr. Chairman, I also want to thank our subcommittee
282 staffs for all their hard work on getting these bills to us
283 today. I urge my colleagues to support these important bills
284 and, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

285 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and I will just
286 go in order, so the gentlelady from New York is recognized
287 for an opening statement for three minutes.

288 *Ms. Clarke. Good morning, and thank you, Chairman
289 Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone. I will get right to it.

290 This committee sounds like a broken record. Month after
291 month and year after year, Republicans have used this
292 committee as a means to give more handouts to tech oligarchs
293 under the guise of keeping kids safe online. Today is no
294 different as we prepare to discuss the same half-baked bills.

295 In our subcommittee markup in December we agreed that we

296 all wanted to see changes to these bills. Apparently, three
297 months was not enough time to reach any sort of consensus,
298 let alone common sense. Republicans have gone as far as to
299 create a partisan Frankenstein package made of their bad
300 ideas, falsely labeled as kids' internet safety.

301 Some of the bills before this committee today are ripe
302 with contradictions, vague enforcement mechanisms, and
303 directly undermine state authority. As I have said many
304 times in this room, without a comprehensive Federal standard
305 existing state laws are the only legislation keeping kids
306 safe online right now. These bills will make way for bad
307 actors to data mine or, in other words, sell, license, rent,
308 trade, transfer, release, disclose, or provide access to
309 personal data.

310 Let me spell it out for you. When a data miner gets the
311 personal information of a child or a teen, they profit on
312 them for life. The best solution to protect kids online is a
313 Federal data privacy standard that we can build off and
314 include additional protection for children and teens.

315 Until my colleagues on the other side of the aisle
316 decide to take this seriously and stop lining the pockets of
317 big tech and data miners, no one will actually be safe
318 online. Let's go back to the drawing board, work in a
319 bipartisan manner to create clear preemption definitions, and
320 create a package that actually keeps children safe.

321 With that I yield back the balance of my time.

322 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.

323 The chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida for three
324 minutes for his opening statement.

325 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

326 First I want to thank the chairman for working with me
327 and stakeholders on all these child protection bills since
328 the subcommittee markup.

329 The KIDS Act is the most comprehensive kids' online
330 safety package this committee has ever advanced. This is the
331 culmination of years of hearings, evidence gathering,
332 heartfelt testimony, and the social media questioning this
333 committee led under several chairs in the past.

334 We heard stories of kids engaging in drug sales and
335 dying of overdoses with the help of apps that enable
336 disappearing messages. The KIDS Act does that, and I want to
337 thank the parents, as well, for their input, there is no
338 question.

339 We heard stories of kids being groomed by strangers
340 through gaming apps and consoles. The KIDS Act addresses
341 that, ladies and gentleman.

342 We heard stories of chatbots encouraging and
343 facilitating suicides in kids. The KIDS Act, sponsored by
344 the chairman, addresses that.

345 We have come a long way, ladies and gentleman. We

346 worked together in a bipartisan fashion.

347 Specifically, I want to talk about my bill, the Kids
348 Online Safety Act, which is now in title 2 of the KIDS Act.
349 This bill creates significant safeguards for minors that
350 limit known threats. This includes limitations on the
351 ability of strangers to engage with minors online. It limits
352 design features that cause compulsive use and addiction to
353 social media platforms. It restricts geolocation of minors
354 that are being used by groomers to meet and abuse their
355 victims, as well as facilitate narcotic drug sales. Most
356 importantly, KOSA turns off algorithms by default for our
357 kids. So very important and, again, the input from the
358 parents really made the difference.

359 We all see it on our own devices. Every one of us are
360 constantly fed recommended videos based on individual history
361 on a platform or across platforms. Now imagine you are a
362 teen child that enjoys UFC videos, or a teen -- a boy or a
363 girl. Or a teen girl or boy who watches a video on healthy
364 eating. Of course, there is nothing wrong with this. But we
365 have all heard the stories. In a matter of days kids can be
366 sucked into an algorithm that twist these innocent views into
367 promoting violence, or drug use, or self-harm, or eating
368 disorders. KOSA puts an end to this spiral.

369 We have a great package here, ladies and gentleman, that
370 is going to go a long way to protecting kids and reducing the

371 online harms we have all seen.

372 So again, I thank the chairman for creating this package
373 of bills which, combined, will mitigate many of the harms we
374 have all seen in our districts. I am proud of the work we
375 have done, and it is long past time to move these bills to
376 the floor.

377 *The Chair. I appreciate it.

378 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you so much.

379 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. The
380 chair recognizes the gentlelady from Illinois, Ms.
381 Schakowsky, for three minutes for her opening statement.

382 *Ms. Schakowsky. Well, I want to thank the parents and
383 families that are here today.

384 And the message that I have heard is that this
385 legislation is not what we have been looking for. We want
386 something better, stronger, something that is really relevant
387 to the children that have been lost. We can do better. And
388 so I think many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle
389 believe that we can and better -- do will -- do better.

390 We need to work with the families, hear their voices,
391 hear what happened, and we need to stop it. And we don't
392 have to slim down. We can get something that is going to be
393 strong enough to make sure that these people who are here
394 today thinking about their children, children that did not
395 make it, and asking us to do better, to be stronger, to be

396 smarter.

397 I think we can do this. I know that we can do this. We
398 have had conversations about it, and I am looking forward to
399 the real bill that needs to make sure that it accounts for
400 the people who have the -- have had the worst thing in life
401 happen to them, to lose their precious children. We can do
402 better.

403 And I yield back.

404 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair --
405 is any member of the Republican side seeking recognition for
406 an opening statement?

407 The chair recognizes the gentlelady from Florida, Ms.
408 Castor, for three minutes for an opening statement.

409 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

410 For years the Energy and Commerce Committee has examined
411 the profound harms of -- that social media platforms inflict
412 on children and the malign design choices that big tech
413 companies use to maximize engagement and profit at kids'
414 expense. Through hearings, investigations, whistleblower
415 testimony, and the voices of families across this country,
416 this committee has learned that these platforms are
417 engineered to capture children's attention, harvest their
418 data, and keep them online with disregard to the consequences
419 of their mental health and safety. That is why it is so
420 troubling that the Republican kids' online safety and privacy

421 bills before us today would actually weaken protections for
422 children.

423 These bills would prevent states from acting as
424 technology evolves, blocking them from responding to new and
425 emerging threats. And they would let social media companies
426 off the hook by allowing them to claim they don't know that
427 children are on their platforms, even though these companies
428 design their products to attract young users and profit from
429 their presence.

430 Instead of raising standards for children's safety,
431 these bills would lower them. Instead of empowering states
432 to protect kids, they would tie states' hands. And instead
433 of holding big tech accountable, they would shield companies
434 and corporations from responsibility. We know this.

435 In 2021 Frances Haugen came before Congress, and she
436 testified that Meta built a business model that prioritizes
437 profit over the safety of its users. Her testimony echoed
438 the tactics of the tobacco industry decades ago: deny the
439 harm, obscure the evidence, and protect the business model at
440 all costs. Well, we have learned since then: Surgeon
441 General reports, John Haidt's best selling book. We know
442 this.

443 So why are Republicans catering to the big tech
444 companies instead of truly getting back to the bipartisan,
445 strong versions of kids' online safety and privacy bills that

446 we hammered out together in the last Congress? I think you
447 only have to look at what this Congress has done. The big
448 tech companies had a front-row seat at the inauguration.
449 They were able to pass an AI moratorium.

450 This is not the time to turn your back on kids, and
451 people across America are aware of this. We are not going to
452 stand for weaker bills that put our kids' safety and privacy
453 at risk.

454 And I want to thank the parents who are here. You have
455 been our North Star in working for, as Ms. Schakowsky said,
456 so much better. You deserve so much better. And we are
457 going to fight for you every step of the way.

458 I yield back my time.

459 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
460 The chair will recognize the gentlelady from Tennessee, Ms.
461 Harshbarger, for three minutes for an opening statement.

462 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would
463 like to express my gratitude to Chair Guthrie for his
464 leadership.

465 I have heard from countless parents who have been
466 fighting to protect their children and teens from harm
467 online. The KIDS Act will save lives. You know, I am a
468 mother. But not only am I a mother, I am a grandmother with
469 children who are the age who have access to these online
470 evils. So what this committee is doing today, we are

471 fighting for what is right. We need to pass this bill to
472 empower parents and protect American families.

473 I want to highlight title 1 of the KIDS Act. This
474 provision includes language from the SCREEN Act, which my
475 colleague and very good friend, Mary Miller, introduced
476 earlier this Congress, and which I am proud to help lead.

477 Point blank, kids should not be looking at pornography.
478 This is just common sense, people. If you want to operate an
479 adult website, you need to make sure minors are not using it.

480 I also want to add that it is constitutional, too.
481 There are some groups out there who suggest it is
482 unconstitutional. Personally, I don't believe this is their
483 real concern. We have been hearing from a lot of folks who
484 profit off doing harm to kids or have questionable
485 ideological priorities. But for those who are worried, you
486 should not be. Last summer the Supreme Court ruled on this
487 very issue. In *Free Speech Coalition vs. Paxton*, the Supreme
488 Court ruled six to three in favor of Texas, upholding the
489 constitutionality of the state law requiring age verification
490 for adult websites. This bill uses the same language and
491 thresholds. Twenty-four other states have similar laws in
492 place.

493 So I strongly encourage all my colleagues to support
494 this provision and the KIDS Act overall because this cannot
495 wait.

496 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

497 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back and the chair
498 will recognize the gentlelady from Michigan for three minutes
499 for an opening statement.

500 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

501 Privacy is a fundamental right. And when it comes to
502 our kids, that responsibility is even greater. And I just
503 have to say I am really deeply disappointed that we are here
504 again today. We are considering a partisan package that
505 falls short of what our families across this country are
506 demanding and what our children need.

507 I am looking at the parents and their pictures of their
508 children, and I have gotten to know some of them, and I know
509 other families with children that have committed suicide or
510 done other awful things because they had -- they were -- I am
511 going to start to cry. We have got to do something.

512 We keep talking and talking and talking about protecting
513 kids online. We have held hearings and markups, and we have
514 introduced bills. And yet time and time again these efforts
515 collapse into partisan exercises that lead nowhere. And
516 meanwhile, our children are exposed to harmful content, their
517 data is harvested, and they are left without meaningful
518 protections. We need and we have been trying to work on
519 bipartisan solutions. But instead of building consensus --
520 my colleagues, I love you, but we are jamming through a

521 package that prioritizes the industry over accountability,
522 that prioritizes industry over our kids.

523 I know how you feel. I lost somebody to suicide, and no
524 one can understand until you have been where you all are.
525 And that is just not how this committee has historically
526 operated, and it is not how we should be operating.

527 This -- I am concerned that this package includes
528 sweeping preemption. As technology evolves and new harms
529 emerge, we must continue to step up to protect children. We
530 have got to set a strong Federal floor.

531 What makes me even more frustrated is that common-sense,
532 bipartisan bills like my No Fentanyl on Social Media Act,
533 which directs Federal agencies to examine how traffickers
534 target minors online and develop concrete recommendations to
535 protect kids, are being wrapped into a broader partisan
536 package that undermines meaningful privacy protections.
537 Unfortunately -- and I hate to say this because I love my
538 friends, but this package is privacy in name only, and it
539 fails to create real, enforceable standards that truly put
540 children and families first.

541 We can't continue to cede its -- our leadership on
542 privacy. We can't keep passing partisan measures while the
543 digital world grows more and more complex for our kids. The
544 American people expect us to work together and get this
545 right. We all need to stand up for our families and for our

546 young people.

547 I hate I am going to have to vote against this package
548 because it is not strong enough, but I hope we can all work
549 together to actually deliver strong privacy protections our
550 children deserve.

551 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
552 there further opening statements on the Republican side?

553 Are there any on the Democrat side?

554 The gentlelady from New York is recognized for three
555 minutes for your opening statement.

556 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. I would like to concur
557 with some of the statements that have been issued today. And
558 I want to, of course, just put my heart out to all of the
559 families of our victims and survivors that are here in the
560 audience today.

561 This bill, unfortunately, is a lot of some of the most
562 cynical ways that Washington works, which is that we center -
563 - or at the top of this bill we will talk about kids, and we
564 will say that things are in -- under the guise of the safety
565 of children. But then when you actually open the hood and
566 look at what is under there, it is being used as a
567 smokescreen for everything that big tech lobbyists want. And
568 what big tech lobbyists want is a national surveillance
569 program where they can harvest the private and personal data
570 of every American with zero actual protections for people and

571 their privacy, and victims of some of the most heinous crimes
572 that we have seen in America.

573 And we don't have to just talk about this as though this
574 is a theoretical issue. Just a couple of months ago,
575 Discord, a platform where a lot of kids have been targeted
576 and put in danger, mind you, tried to roll out this idea of a
577 data verification, or an age verification technique. But
578 what they did -- but they did it in this way that was also
579 very emblematic of what we are against here today. They
580 contracted out to a third-party private company to do facial
581 scanning of not just kids, but also adults.

582 And then -- and mind you, Discord has over 200 million
583 users every month -- they decided to launch a team default
584 setting where they will lock you into a -- what they call a
585 teen-appropriate experience, which means you can't access
586 certain content, which, mind you, if you are an adult that
587 does not opt in, you then get cordoned off into the teen
588 experience. Explain to me how that has anything to do with
589 children's safety.

590 And then, if -- the only way to get out of that censored
591 version is by scanning your face. But what is more shocking
592 is that Discord made the decision to move forward with this
593 after they had been hacked and at least seven 70,000 users
594 had their data stolen. So I don't see -- even on the other
595 side of this kids were not protected, but a lot of people's

596 privacy was violated.

597 And I want to once again express my heartfelt -- just
598 condolences to all of the advocates here. And I do believe
599 that we can both protect American safety and protect kids.
600 This package, unfortunately, does not do that, and we want to
601 get to a place where we, of course, protect victims and
602 ensure the privacy of every American is honored, as well.

603 Thank you, and I yield back.

604 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
605 there any member on the Republican side?

606 Seeing none, Dr. Ruiz is -- Mr. Auchincloss, you are
607 recognized for three minutes for an opening statement.

608 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Chairman.

609 A little bit more than a year ago, the President held a
610 Meta inauguration, where Mr. Zuckerberg was front and center,
611 demonstrating to Americans exactly where this President's
612 priorities were going to lie. Since then, Meta and others
613 have helped renovate the East Wing of the White House, and
614 built data centers in Louisiana, and now they are getting
615 their reward, which is a Meta markup. And that is exactly
616 what today is, because what this bill does -- to double down
617 on what the congresswoman from New York just said -- is this
618 markup is a vehicle for a false flag operation by Meta, where
619 they put at the front of these bills all these nice-sounding
620 ideas, and then they tuck in two things: an actual knowledge

621 standard and preemption that nullifies everything that came
622 before it. This is a blank check to big tech, and Democrats
623 are going to stand against it.

624 The reason Meta wants this so badly is because Mr.
625 Zuckerberg doesn't like what is happening right now. He is
626 actually having to answer to a jury of his peers about the
627 treatment of young people online, and he is finding some
628 pretty disturbing things. A third of all 10 to 12-year-olds
629 in America are using Instagram, for example, despite the fact
630 that Meta claims that that should be impossible. They are
631 finding out that their chatbots are allowed to hold sensual
632 conversations with young people. We are finding out that
633 Meta suppressed research on child safety. We are finding out
634 that internally and externally they downplayed the risks to
635 child safety, despite knowing internally that their young
636 users were suffering online.

637 Mr. Zuckerberg wants it to stop, and so he comes to
638 congressional Republicans and they make it stop for him. And
639 the opportunity cost there is that the litigation that can
640 bring justice for these parents, for these children will be
641 halted in its tracks.

642 In my own district in Massachusetts, the town of
643 Brookline has joined a class action suit that seeks to hold
644 Meta and others accountable for treating our children like
645 products whose attention spans can be monetized, whose sense

646 of self and society can be corroded. This lawsuit would
647 never have been possible, had this law that we are marking up
648 today been in effect. And we must prevent this false flag
649 operation from succeeding.

650 I yield back.

651 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
652 further opening statements on the Republican side?

653 Seeing none, any on the Democrat side?

654 Seeing none, before we pull up the first bill I would
655 like to take a point of personal privilege to recognize a
656 valuable member of our team who is leaving us, Ms.
657 Khanahmadi. Today is the last committee activity for our
658 deputy staff director, Sophie Khanahmadi.

659 I finally got saying your married name correctly.
660 Because I have known you for so long, I have called you by
661 your maiden name for so long.

662 So Sophie joined my office in 2017 as my health care
663 advisor, became my legislative director in 2019, and then
664 later became my chief of staff. She has led our office and
665 was instrumental in my becoming chairman of this committee.
666 And last year Sophie came over as our deputy staff director
667 and has been an integral part of our team.

668 For all of her professional talents, which there are
669 many, above all she is a truly wonderful person. And I have
670 gotten to see her get married to her husband, Peter, become a

671 mom with the birth of her son, Henry Beau, and I am excited
672 for her as she becomes -- welcomes a baby girl this summer.
673 And while I am so sad to lose her, I am proud of all she has
674 accomplished, and I am excited for her and her family as they
675 begin this next adventure.

676 And I will ask my colleagues to join me in thanking
677 Sophie for her service to this committee and this country.

678 [Applause.]

679 *The Chair. Thank you. I appreciate it very much. You
680 are the best.

681 So now we will get back to the legislative business.
682 The chair calls up H.R. 757 (sic), and asks the clerk to
683 report.

684 *The Clerk. H.R. 7757, a bill to protect children and
685 teens online, empower parents, and strengthen families, and
686 for other purposes. Be it enacted by the --

687 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
688 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
689 amendment at any point.

690 So ordered.

691 [The bill follows:]

692

693 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

694

695 *The Chair. And I will recognize myself for five
696 minutes to speak on the bill.

697 As we sit here today, childhood is being reshaped in
698 real time by the digital world, and often in ways detrimental
699 to American families. And parents feel it -- we see you here
700 -- kids are living it, and Congress has a responsibility to
701 act. That is exactly what the Kids Internet Digital Safety
702 Act does.

703 The KIDS Act is the most serious, comprehensive piece of
704 legislation to address online safety to date. There is no
705 one-size-fits-all fix that can help American families
706 navigate the challenges they face in today's digital
707 childhood, no single policy that can empower parents or fully
708 remove every threat from the internet. That is precisely why
709 this bill takes a wide-ranging approach.

710 This bill brings together a dozen impactful proposals
711 into one unified package. These measures are powerful on
712 their own, but exponentially stronger together. This is the
713 broadest online safety proposal for children and teens ever
714 considered by Congress.

715 The KIDS Act, contrary to what you have heard, sets
716 safety data as the default. Platforms must maximize
717 protection for children and teens, including safeguards
718 against obscene and restricted products, unsafe
719 communication, and design features that result in compulsive

720 usage.

721 It empowers parents. It requires platforms to provide
722 easy-to-use tools and controls through a centralized
723 interface, making these tools accessible, intuitive, and not
724 yet another burden on already-stressed parents.

725 It protects privacy and security. It bans targeted
726 advertising and market research on children and teens by
727 requiring the strongest privacy settings by default and
728 establishing strict privacy and security standards for
729 personal information.

730 It does help big tech accountable. The bill mandates
731 annual third-party audits, reporting mechanisms, and robust
732 enforcement by the Federal Trade Commission and states
733 attorneys general, resulting in the strongest enforcement
734 regime proposed by Congress in any online safety legislation.

735 I want to thank to -- all the members, both on and off
736 this committee, for your contributions, dedication, and
737 commitment to putting forward the strongest approach to
738 protecting kids online that Congress has ever seen. The KIDS
739 Act reflects all of our work, and we should be proud of it.

740 This bill should be bipartisan. This bill includes a
741 dozen separate bills, nearly all of which are bipartisan.
742 During negotiations we accepted dozens of edits from the
743 minority, and those edits are reflected in the bill before
744 us. Protecting kids and empowering parents is not a partisan

745 issue, and this bill largely reflects the universal policies
746 we had a bipartisan agreement on.

747 I urge all 54 of us in this room to support this bill.
748 This isn't a moment for politics. It is a moment to govern,
749 and children across our nation deserve it.

750 I yield back. Does anyone seek to recognize (sic) on
751 the bill?

752 *Mr. Pallone. Castor.

753 *The Chair. The gentlelady from Florida is recognized
754 for five minutes to speak on the bill.

755 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
756 the last word.

757 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

758 *Ms. Castor. Members, I would like to shine the light
759 on one of the most consequential ways that House Republicans
760 have bowed to the big tech companies and social media
761 companies, and that is the elimination of the duty of care in
762 the design of their products. There is no duty of care in
763 this bill.

764 A duty of care is a simple idea, it -- but it carries
765 enormous weight when we are talking about children's safety
766 online. At its core, it is the basic expectation that
767 companies should not design products in ways that put people,
768 especially children, at risk, at unnecessary and foreseeable
769 risk. We already apply this expectation to toys, to

770 playgrounds, to cars, and so many other products that
771 children use every day. A duty of care simply brings the
772 same common-sense standard into the digital world.

773 In plain language, a duty of care means that if a
774 company knows or should know that its product could harm
775 people, it must take reasonable steps to prevent that harm.
776 It doesn't demand perfection. It doesn't stifle innovation.
777 It simply says if you build a system that millions of
778 children use, you must think about their safety when you
779 design it. And that matters because social media platforms
780 are not passive tools; they are engineered intentionally.
781 They are built around algorithms, engagement loops, and data
782 collection systems that shape what children see, how long
783 they stay online, and who can reach them.

784 These design choices are powerful, and they can create
785 predictable risks. Features like infinite scroll, autoplay,
786 and algorithmic recommendations keep kids online far longer
787 than is healthy. And children cannot fully understand or
788 manage these risks. They don't have the developmental
789 capacity to navigate complex data practices, targeted
790 content, or manipulated -- manipulative design.

791 Our existing laws are not built for algorithmic systems.
792 Traditional consumer protection frameworks don't address the
793 way digital platforms collect data or shape behavior. A duty
794 of care fills that gap. It requires companies to consider

795 the real-world impact of their systems on young users, and to
796 take reasonable steps to reduce foreseeable harm in the way
797 they are designed.

798 And for lawmakers, duty of care provides a clear and
799 workable standard. It defines what reasonable precautions
800 look like in the digital world. It creates accountability
801 when companies ignore known risks. It encourages platforms
802 to assess harms before launching new features, and it gives
803 states and regulators a benchmark for enforcement while
804 helping courts evaluate whether a company has acted
805 responsibly. It simply establishes a baseline obligation:
806 if a platform knows that a system can harm children, it must
807 act to reduce that harm.

808 And in practice, a duty of care can lead to meaningful
809 improvements. It can push companies to reduce exposure to
810 harmful designs, to limit contact between minors and unknown
811 adults, to avoid addictive features targeted at children, to
812 strengthen privacy protections, and to respond more quickly
813 when harmful patterns emerge. These are the kind of
814 protections families often assume already exist, but they do
815 not. A duty of care helps ensure that when children go
816 online, the companies that built those platforms have taken
817 reasonable steps to keep them safe. It aligns the digital
818 world with the expectations we already have in other parts of
819 children's lives, that the adults in charge take

820 responsibility for preventing foreseeable harm.

821 I so regret that you have weakened the standard and
822 bowed to the big tech companies at the expense of our
823 children. And this was one of the most consequential ways
824 that you did that.

825 I yield back my time.

826 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
827 recognizes the gentlelady from Indiana for five minutes to
828 speak on the bill.

829 *Mrs. Houchin. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
830 word.

831 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

832 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Chairman Guthrie, for
833 bringing the Kids Internet and Digital Safety Act before this
834 committee markup today.

835 I also want to sincerely thank Subcommittee Chairman
836 Bilirakis and your staff for investing in getting this
837 legislation to the point it is today.

838 I want to thank the witnesses, parents, advocates who
839 shared their stories with me and the expertise they have
840 provided throughout this process. I know that there are
841 concerns that the bill today before us is not perfect.

842 But I do want to note that this is a culmination of a
843 lot of work by this committee to bring meaningful, durable
844 protections to American children online, and our efforts are

845 genuine. To say otherwise is offensive to those of us who
846 have been working on this issue -- me, personally, for at
847 least the last three years. And I want to see us get
848 something done.

849 I applaud my colleagues on the left. I share their
850 perspective on preemption. But I also am very concerned that
851 their focus stops at age 13 when, if you have read John
852 Haidt's "Anxious Generation," you know that he pushes for a
853 standard of a prohibition for social media under the age of
854 16.

855 This package will address a wide range of harms:
856 addiction-by-design features, exposure to dangerous content,
857 exploitation, lack of parental tools, unsafe AI chatbot
858 interactions, and inadequate data privacy. It does create
859 real obligations for platforms, not just voluntary
860 commitments, and it enforces those obligations through the
861 FTC and states attorneys general.

862 This bill also includes several of my own legislative
863 priorities that I do want to highlight, including the SAFE
864 BOTs Act. We are in the middle of a chatbot revolution.
865 Children are on the front lines. Kids today aren't just
866 scrolling feeds; they are forming emotional bonds with AI
867 companions that simulate empathy, mimic authority figures,
868 and are available at any hour. And in too many cases those
869 kids don't even know they are talking to software. We saw a

870 tragic illustration of this when a 14-year-old lost his life
871 after months of conversations with a chatbot that validated
872 his most troubling thoughts, rather than routing him to real
873 help. That can't be the norm.

874 The SAFE BOTs Act creates common-sense baseline
875 guardrails. It prohibits AI from impersonating licensed
876 professionals. It requires age-appropriate disclosure so
877 minors always know they are talking to an AI, not a human.
878 It mandates that platforms provide a crisis hotline when a
879 minor raises self harm or suicide. It requires reasonable,
880 take-a-break prompts after extended interactions, and directs
881 the NIH to study long-term mental health effects of chatbots
882 on minors.

883 This bill also includes the AWARE Act, which takes a
884 foundational step that we should have taken years ago,
885 equipping parents, educators, and children with clear,
886 accessible information about the risks of AI chatbots and
887 dangerous bots. Parents need to understand that when their
888 child pours their heart out to a chatbot, that data may be
889 harvested to train the next generation of AI models. They
890 need to know how to identify a bot, how to recognize a
891 manipulative or unsafe bot, and where to turn if something
892 goes wrong. The AWARE Act directs the FTC, in consultation
893 with relevant agencies, to produce those resources. It is
894 not another government report; it is actionable guidance

895 targeted to different age groups, delivered in a format that
896 actually reaches families.

897 And I go back again to my mission of having an -- at
898 least an age 16 standard for access to these platforms.
899 Anything less than that creates tremendous loopholes that the
900 tech companies will exploit.

901 These provisions in the broader KIDS Act package
902 represent the kind of comprehensive and durable Federal
903 framework that families are hoping for. I know it is not
904 perfect, but the research is clear, the harm is documented,
905 and the technology is not going to slow down. I encourage my
906 colleagues to support the package as we continue to work on
907 this.

908 And Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your leadership and I
909 yield back.

910 *Mr. Latta. [Presiding.] Thank you very much. The
911 gentlelady yields back.

912 Are there any other members wishing to be recognized on
913 the bill?

914 For what purpose does the gentleman from California seek
915 recognition?

916 *Dr. Ruiz. I move to strike the last word.

917 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
918 minutes to strike the last word.

919 *Dr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

920 I want to thank all the parents that are here holding up
921 photos of your sons and daughters. I can see the pain. I
922 see you and I see your pain, and I want to thank you for
923 being here.

924 I want to be direct. This bill, in its current House
925 form, raises serious concerns that cannot be ignored. Two
926 issues stand out above all others: one, the lack of a duty
927 of care; and two, the broad preemption of state law.

928 The absence of a duty of care means that platforms are
929 not required to take proactive steps to protect children.
930 Let that sink in for a second. So there -- you know, there
931 are some good, perhaps, changes that they will do, but they
932 are not required. Instead, they can rely on self-regulated
933 "reasonable policies," a standard that has repeatedly failed
934 to prevent harm. And who sets that standard? Themselves.
935 Oh, this is reasonable, they say, and they have been saying
936 this, and they are not held accountable because of that.
937 Without a clear legal obligation, our children remain
938 vulnerable to exploitative practices, manipulative design
939 features, and online harms that are well documented.

940 Equally concerning is the bill's broad preemption of
941 state law. For example, in my state. States like California
942 have already enacted strong protections for children online,
943 including the California Age Appropriate Design Code Act
944 which establishes robust privacy and safety standards for

945 minors using digital services. This House bill would
946 effectively nullify those protections, stripping states of
947 the authority to maintain or expand safeguards that are
948 already in place. So it will make kids less safe in those
949 states.

950 In other words, this bill in those states will make kids
951 more vulnerable, will hurt kids, will take away protections.
952 What the hell are we doing here?

953 So Congress should set a Federal floor for child safety,
954 not erase state laws that are actively protecting kids today.
955 And, you know, they are going to say, no, it doesn't change -
956 - preempt state law. Well, this bill says that the only duty
957 platforms have is to write their own rules and policies. And
958 as long as they have their own rule, anything that holds them
959 to a different standard is "in conflict" with House KOSA,
960 okay? State laws and state cases hold tech accountable under
961 more protective standards than anything tech will write for
962 themselves, thus the conflict.

963 It also says that actual knowledge is required both for
964 regulation and enforcement. So tech platforms can't be held
965 accountable unless they have actual knowledge or willfully
966 disregard that a child is on their platforms. They are going
967 to say, we willfully did not want to do these harms. We are
968 going to take their word for it. So state laws say that tech
969 platforms can be held accountable if they reasonably should

970 have known that a child was on their platforms. That is not
971 going to be in effect anymore because of this bill.

972 I also, Mr. Chairman, want to ask unanimous consent to
973 submit for the record a letter opposing this bill signed by
974 161 parents whose children have died, and 283 parents whose
975 children have suffered severe psychological harm linked to
976 social media, all of whom oppose this legislation.

977 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Without objection, so ordered.

978 [The information follows:]

979

980 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

981

982 *Dr. Ruiz. And by the parents nodding their head yes, I
983 am assuming they are opposing this legislation here. Their
984 voices reflect the real-world consequences of online harms
985 and underscore the urgent need for stronger protections for
986 children.

987 I urge my colleagues to recognize that we cannot
988 prioritize industry convenience over child safety. A
989 stronger duty of care and careful attention to state
990 preemption are essential to ensure this legislation truly
991 protects children, unless you are -- all you are doing is
992 introducing a Trojan horse, something that may look like a
993 gift, but in fact is dangerous.

994 Every child deserves robust protections online, no
995 matter where they live or their family's circumstances. Our
996 responsibility is to ensure they have them.

997 Thank you to the parents that are here.

998 And I yield back.

999 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back and the chair
1000 will recognize Mr. Evans from Colorado for five minutes to
1001 speak on the bill.

1002 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
1003 last word.

1004 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
1005 bill.

1006 *Mr. Evans. I am proud to speak in support of this

1007 historic package, the Kids Internet and Digital Safety Act,
1008 or KIDS Act. The legislation will deliver the protection
1009 that America's children need, and empower parents to be sure
1010 their kids are being safe online.

1011 And I want to thank the chairman for his leadership on
1012 this issue and for including my bipartisan legislation, the
1013 No Fentanyl on Social Media Act, in the bill.

1014 During subcommittee consideration of the No Fentanyl on
1015 Social Media Act last year I mentioned my background as a
1016 police officer in the Denver metro area and the tragic toll
1017 that I saw drugs like fentanyl take on the communities I
1018 worked in then and the communities I represent now.

1019 The proliferation of this drug over social media sites
1020 means that we have seen unacceptably high rates of drug
1021 overdose deaths among kids. Colorado logged the second
1022 highest youth overdose rate in the nation just 2 years ago,
1023 with 75 percent of those overdoses being associated with
1024 fentanyl. Doing everything that we can in Congress to combat
1025 the scourge of this drug is a deeply personal mission for me.

1026 And I will remind my colleagues that every 15 days under
1027 the previous administration we lost the same number of
1028 Americans to drug overdoses as we lost in the entirety of the
1029 September 11 terrorist attacks. I am a veteran of the global
1030 war on terror. I deployed overseas. That statistic speaks
1031 volumes, and that is why I am grateful to see why my

1032 legislative proposal, which assesses the full scope of this
1033 challenge and presents a comprehensive set of solutions, is
1034 going to move forward in this committee.

1035 I also want to take a moment to highlight the historic
1036 nature of this legislation and the other bills that we are
1037 considering today, and speak to the importance of
1038 congressional action in kids' online safety. This committee
1039 is standing up to big tech companies in a way that is going
1040 to be able to survive First Amendment challenges, and it is
1041 going to put American children first by requiring them to
1042 implement common-sense default standards and empower parents
1043 with the oversight tools they need to protect their families.

1044 I am a cop. I spent over 10 years. I have personally
1045 put criminals behind bars who have exploited kids online. I
1046 am a father of two boys, teenagers. I know that today's
1047 current internet landscape is a lawless environment that
1048 often puts kids in harm's way right under families' noses. I
1049 have personally met and worked with and responded to victims
1050 who would have benefitted from reforms like are included in
1051 today's proposal, from age verification to parental
1052 monitoring tools.

1053 These aren't radical proposals. They are not even
1054 partisan proposals. The concept that you should verify a
1055 user's age before allowing them to download explicit apps is
1056 not controversial. The concept that chatbots should inform

1057 miners that they are chatbots, that they are AI, and that
1058 they should not encourage suicide is not controversial. The
1059 concept that big tech companies should give parents the tools
1060 that they need to intervene if their child is exposed to
1061 harmful materials online, that is not controversial. These
1062 are literally 80/20 issues.

1063 The American people are tired of inaction. We have to
1064 deliver common-sense legislation that will survive all of the
1065 court challenges that will inevitably come, and make sure
1066 that we give something durable that is going to protect kids.
1067 America's youth are at a crossroads. Nearly half of
1068 teenagers concede that social media, as it exists today,
1069 harms people their age. Fifty-five percent of parents are
1070 either extremely or very worried about teen mental health.
1071 Nine out of ten parents are concerned about their kids' own
1072 safety online. I have seen this. I have personally
1073 responded to countless situations of kids, youth being a
1074 danger to themselves because of social media. And
1075 unfortunately, I have had to respond when kids took their own
1076 lives because of the pressures or the interactions that they
1077 experienced on social media.

1078 So to my colleagues across the aisle who are considering
1079 voting against these bills today, don't let partisan divides
1080 come between our shared goal of protecting our nation's kids.
1081 Join us in taking decisive action to make a meaningful,

1082 durable, lasting impact on future generations of Americans by
1083 putting our kids' well-being first.

1084 Chairman Guthrie, I want to thank you for your
1085 leadership again in this space. I implore all my colleagues
1086 today to join together in protecting kids, and I yield back.

1087 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
1088 will recognize the gentlelady from Colorado, Ms. DeGette, for
1089 five minutes for -- to speak on the bill.

1090 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
1091 in your opening statement on these bills you said this is not
1092 a moment for politics, and I agree. But I have been in
1093 Congress for a long time now, and I find that what happens
1094 is, frequently, particularly during an election year like
1095 this year is, politicians will claim that legislation stands
1096 for things that it just doesn't do. I call it -- I have a
1097 name for it. It is called fig leaf legislation. What we say
1098 is we say we have a terrible scourge in our country of online
1099 abuse of kids, and we see the result of it sitting right here
1100 today.

1101 And I want to thank all of these parents. I want to add
1102 my thanks to everybody sitting here today for the sacrifices
1103 you and your families have made. I also want to say every
1104 family sitting in this room wants Congress to work together
1105 in a bipartisan way to solve this problem, not to pass a fig
1106 leaf bill where we can all say, oh, it is a terrible problem

1107 and our kids deserve more, and we are going to pass a bill
1108 that benefits big data, that benefits these countries, and
1109 that actually does nothing to help solve more deaths.

1110 I have been -- as I said, I have been here a long time.
1111 And for a long time I have seen this committee work on
1112 bipartisan legislation to solve problems like this, and we
1113 can do it. More than 10 years ago I was actually the chair
1114 of the Data Privacy Caucus with the former chairman of the
1115 Energy and Commerce Committee, Joe Barton from -- a
1116 Republican from Texas. And we issued a joint statement to
1117 march -- to mark the eighth anniversary of Data Privacy Day.
1118 And we said 11 years ago, "We live in a digital age of
1119 smartphones, tablets, and social media. It is vital that
1120 consumers are informed about their rights to privacy online.
1121 It is also vital that businesses are held accountable for
1122 keeping consumers' information safe. Digital innovation and
1123 preserving personal privacy can and should go hand in hand."

1124 I think back just a couple of years ago to September
1125 2024, when the committee produced bipartisan bills that were
1126 focused on the well-being of our kids, and the Senate passed
1127 their version 91 to 3. But 24 hours before our markup, the
1128 bill was mysteriously changed to restrict a company's duty of
1129 care to reasonably prevent and mitigate harms to minors.

1130 Now, look, two of my wonderful colleagues have already
1131 explained in depth why this matters. Our leader, Kathy

1132 Castor, has explained why duty of care is so important. And
1133 our visionary Congressman Auchincloss explained about why
1134 preemption standards are so important in case there is a
1135 glitch, in case someone needs to assert their rights under
1136 state law.

1137 We owe it to our kids. We owe it to the kids who are --
1138 whose pictures are breaking all of our hearts right now to
1139 get this right, and to actually pass a bill and not a fig
1140 leaf bill, because I am going to tell you something. I don't
1141 want to be sitting here in a couple of years looking at this
1142 bill that we passed, this fig leaf bill. I don't want to be
1143 sitting here looking at the bill with a whole new crop of
1144 moms and dads holding a whole new set of photos of kids that
1145 we have lost because Congress did not achieve our goals and
1146 we went and we fell short of our commitment to the families
1147 of America.

1148 And I yield back.

1149 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
1150 The chair recognizes Mrs. Fedorchak of North Dakota for five
1151 minutes to speak on the bill.

1152 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate
1153 your leadership on this issue.

1154 I also want to acknowledge all the parents in the room,
1155 and recognize your pain and your concern. As a mother of
1156 three, I share that. I have three children. My husband and

1157 I raised them in the wild, wild west of internet and online
1158 exposure. They are now 20, 22, and 24. So they were going
1159 through this when all of this was new.

1160 I remember the day my daughter came home and asked for
1161 Snapchat, and my husband and I looked at each other. What is
1162 Snapchat? And then she explained it and said, oh, it is this
1163 fun app where you get these photos and then they vanish. And
1164 my husband said, why would we ever allow you to have an app
1165 designed to send things that vanish? That can't be good. So
1166 we said no, and we said no, and no, and no. That was what we
1167 said all through their growing up. But it was really, really
1168 hard. We would turn on the parental control devices, have no
1169 clue how to use them. We would forget the passwords, then
1170 they would be locked out for hours or days while we figured
1171 this all out. It was a wild, wild west.

1172 I would have loved to have some of the items included in
1173 this bill today that our chairman is bringing forward. It
1174 would have been a huge step in the right direction for my
1175 parent, for me and my husband, things like requiring the
1176 platforms to put safeguards in place to address harms for
1177 minors, limit design features that result in compulsive
1178 usage, online safeguards for kids that are turned on by
1179 default. That should be the standard. That is a simple
1180 change. Prohibiting platforms from advertising illegal
1181 products to kids, prohibiting platforms from defaulting to

1182 algorithms that feed minors more and more of the information
1183 they are interested in. I love this one: providing parental
1184 controls over minors' app downloads. Just not allowing
1185 minors to download apps at will, without a parent being
1186 involved.

1187 These are significant steps in the right direction. It
1188 will allow states' attorney generals to enforce Federal
1189 standards. Enforcement is a huge piece of the challenge.
1190 Bringing our local and state officials on board to help with
1191 that is a step in the right direction.

1192 It is not perfect. I will admit it is not perfect. But
1193 there are some really powerful tools here, and I urge my
1194 colleagues on the other side to join us, take these steps
1195 forward. We can do more down the road, but this is a very
1196 important step in the right direction.

1197 So thank you, Mr. Guthrie, for bringing it forward. I
1198 yield back.

1199 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back and the chair
1200 recognizes the gentlelady from Massachusetts, Mrs. Trahan,
1201 for five minutes to speak on the bill.

1202 *Mrs. Trahan. I move to strike the last word.

1203 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized to speak on
1204 the bill.

1205 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1206 Protecting our kids online is one of the most urgent

1207 responsibilities that we face. It is a crisis for families
1208 in every community, in every state in our country with
1209 devastating consequences, as represented by the parents here
1210 today holding pictures of their lost children, their
1211 beautiful kids. That is why I am so tired of sitting here
1212 year after year, markup after markup, watching Congress act
1213 like we are taking this issue seriously, but passing nothing
1214 that is helpful.

1215 Parents and kids deserve better from their legislators
1216 than this song and dance that we go through every Congress.
1217 They deserve constitutional privacy-preserving and evidence-
1218 based solutions, not political theater.

1219 I first want to acknowledge Ranking Member Pallone and
1220 his team for working toward a bipartisan kids safety package.
1221 I am disheartened that that spirit of collaboration was
1222 ultimately not reciprocated in the KIDS Act.

1223 And make no mistake, there is a bipartisan path forward.
1224 In fact, there are places where I think the KIDS Act
1225 represents some modest progress. On constitutionality, this
1226 bill inches away from the content-based regulation that the
1227 Supreme Court and district courts have repeatedly told us
1228 violates the First Amendment. The KIDS Act doesn't get there
1229 fully, but it is moving in the right direction because laws
1230 that get struck down in court, they don't protect anyone.

1231 On age verification the bill appears to recognize that a

1232 paper's -- internet where all must identify themselves in
1233 every app on every website is terrible for privacy and
1234 cybersecurity. And once the infrastructure exists to track
1235 us online, our government may very well leverage it. We are
1236 already seeing this Administration and their appetite for
1237 domestic surveillance.

1238 Finally, I appreciate the bill's inclusion of
1239 transparency measures like third-party audits, but I wish it
1240 went further to protect our independent researchers who
1241 represent some of our best watchdogs.

1242 Despite these improvements, there is no way I can
1243 support what is in front of me. On preemption, I am
1244 concerned, as many of my colleagues already pointed out,
1245 about the inconsistent approach across different titles and
1246 sections of the bill that would displace state laws that are
1247 working.

1248 Similarly, I share parents' concerns that the KIDS Act
1249 could potentially negate scores of product liability lawsuits
1250 that I believe should have their day in court.

1251 On enforcement, I think this bill puts too much trust in
1252 an under-resourced FTC and disempowers state attorney general
1253 (sic).

1254 We should be making up for gaps in Federal enforcement,
1255 not widening them. But we should be careful not to let the
1256 nature of the bills before us define the horizon of what this

1257 committee can do to protect our children online. There are
1258 whole policy areas that are entirely missing from the
1259 discussion, and we should say so. So let me just briefly
1260 reiterate my three-pronged strategy that I believe would
1261 actually protect kids in a way that uplifts privacy and
1262 respects the limits of the First Amendment: first,
1263 restrictions on data collection that disrupts predatory
1264 business models; second, competition policy that gives
1265 parents and kids real choices, like the App Store Freedom Act
1266 that I am leading with Representative Cammack; and third,
1267 strong, independent enforcement that holds companies
1268 accountable.

1269 On data privacy in particular, this committee has plenty
1270 of material to learn from. There is model bills led by
1271 leaders on both sides of the aisle, both sides of this
1272 committee, dozens of state laws, and international statutes.
1273 There is no shortage of policy options; we just need the
1274 political will. That is why, you know, I was pleased when
1275 last year Chairman Guthrie and Vice Chairman Joyce announced
1276 a privacy working group. Now, although that group consists
1277 only of Republicans, its formation signals that data privacy
1278 is foundational to any online safety regime, a stance that I
1279 agree with wholeheartedly.

1280 But timing (sic) is running out to get privacy
1281 legislation across the finish line before this Congress is

1282 over, and we need to get this done. And I am sure that I am
1283 not the only Democrat ready to collaborate with the working
1284 group. I stand ready first as a mom to 15 and 11-year-old
1285 daughters, and second as a legislator to fight for a better
1286 future to honor your courage being here today, a digital
1287 future for our kids that is safe, one that we can be proud
1288 of.

1289 Thank you, I yield back.

1290 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
1291 recognizes Mr. Kean from New Jersey for five minutes to speak
1292 on the bill.

1293 *Mr. Kean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1294 I am grateful to the Chairman Guthrie and his team for
1295 their tireless efforts to address the growing threats that
1296 children face online. Kids Internet Digital Safety Act, or
1297 KIDS Act, takes an important step to address these concerns
1298 and harms. Particularly, I want to highlight how this bill
1299 addresses the dangerous harms online gaming chats present to
1300 minors.

1301 The Safer Gaming Act, a bill I introduced, is -- was
1302 included in the KIDS Act. The online gaming provisions in
1303 this bill provide robust protections to keep kids safe on
1304 online video game platforms and prevent harmful interactions
1305 with strangers and predators. It ensures that every user
1306 under the age of 17 cannot participate in a chat unless they

1307 receive approval from their parents.

1308 Social gaming poses a very real threat to minors. Data
1309 is alarming. Nearly 70 percent of teens report playing
1310 online games with strangers, at least weekly. We know that
1311 predators often use the shared interest of a video game to
1312 build trust with a child. Statistics show approximately two-
1313 thirds of minors say an online-only contact has asked them to
1314 provide -- to move from public chat into a private
1315 conversation on another platform. This vulnerability can
1316 lead to child exploitation, and must be stopped.

1317 The KIDS Act takes an important step in addressing these
1318 harms. It states that if a user is under the age of 17, they
1319 should not be participating in chats, particularly with
1320 adults, unless a parent explicitly allows it. I have heard
1321 too many stories of New Jersey families and American families
1322 who have suffered due to the lack of robust protections for
1323 children and teens. The KIDS Act gives parents the choice
1324 and the tools to limit their child's ability to communicate
1325 with changes online, disrupting this cycle and protecting
1326 users from malicious encounters with strangers.

1327 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I
1328 yield back.

1329 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
1330 recognizes Mr. Peters from California for the --

1331 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I move to

1332 strike the last word.

1333 So today we are considering the Online Safety Act, a
1334 bill that could transform the ways kids interact with the
1335 internet by changing rules around algorithms, data sharing,
1336 and private messaging. And while the internet can offer
1337 imaginable opportunities, it also comes with real risks.
1338 Over the last few years we have repeatedly heard from
1339 individuals like the parents who sit with us today about the
1340 ways in which their family members have been harmed online.

1341 Algorithms on social media platforms can suggest or
1342 amplify harmful content to kids, leading them down a
1343 dangerous path. Additionally, addictive design features like
1344 infinite scrolling, autoplay, and push notifications, which
1345 are intentionally designed to maximize engagement, can be
1346 especially detrimental for minors who are spending more and
1347 more time online.

1348 And to the parents here today, thank you for being here.
1349 Thank you for sharing your stories. Thank you for your
1350 advocacy on behalf of kids like yours to make sure that other
1351 families do not experience what you have had to endure. And
1352 I apologize to you that we will not come up today with
1353 something that is going to answer what we need. Congress has
1354 a responsibility to create guardrails where industry self-
1355 regulation has failed, and the Kids Online Safety Act before
1356 us today falls short of that.

1357 I want to just highlight again the main thing I think we
1358 need is a duty of care. The current Senate version contains
1359 a duty of care provision that holds tech companies legally
1360 liable for violations of the bill, and would require that
1361 platforms design and operate their platforms in ways that
1362 mitigate risks to kids.

1363 You know, the chairman referenced the idea of extra
1364 enforcement from outside agencies, but these companies will
1365 whisk those away like so many flies. It is not going to
1366 matter to them. What you need is a duty of care that imposes
1367 a duty which also sets a legal standard. And it has to be on
1368 their bottom line, because only those companies are in a
1369 position to actually do the work to protect these kids. From
1370 the outside we can't do that. So you have to put a duty of
1371 care on the bottom line of these companies, because that is
1372 the way that they will be incentivized to respond and to do
1373 the right thing. And it is the only way. And we don't have
1374 that today. We had -- we have that in the Senate bill, and
1375 we are going to have to have that before we come to something
1376 that is really going to solve the concerns that you all have
1377 and that we all share over here. And I don't want to
1378 attribute anybody's -- to anyone bad motives, but this is
1379 just a weak, weak attempt.

1380 Let me say too I thought Mr. Ruiz explained really well
1381 that, if we enacted this, it would actually set us backward

1382 in a lot of places. So it would actually make the situation
1383 worse by preempting the state laws that are out there. Now,
1384 my colleagues know, by the way, that I am a fan of one
1385 standard, one national standard that is a strong standard
1386 that can be interpreted by courts consistently, that is not
1387 too hard to implement for folks so that we can have new
1388 competitors enter the market. We don't have that today. So
1389 I will not support preemption. But I want my colleagues to
1390 know that if we can come up with a standard that protects
1391 everyone, I am open to preemption. I would like one Federal
1392 standard that we could rely on, but this is not it.

1393 So I will vote against this bill. I urge my colleagues
1394 to join me. And today I will surprise many people by voting
1395 against the preemption provisions because I am big for one
1396 Federal standard, but I can't -- I would not want to use this
1397 to preempt what is out there today. This would make the
1398 situation worse, and I think we have got more work to do. So
1399 I am sorry about that. But, you know, we have a lot of
1400 people in here who want to address your concerns in a way
1401 that will really be meaningful to you and will work. And so
1402 thank you for being with us.

1403 And with that I yield back.

1404 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1405 further discussion on the Republican side?

1406 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Washington, Dr.

1407 Schrier, is recognized for five minutes.

1408 I am just going to go in seniority.

1409 *Dr. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1410 strike the last word.

1411 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized to speak on
1412 the bill.

1413 *Dr. Schrier. I am incredibly frustrated by this markup
1414 today, and the inclusion of this highly partisan package.
1415 The so-called KIDS Act includes not just a watered-down
1416 version of the Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, but a version
1417 that will be actively harmful to kids and that, I believe,
1418 sets back our progress on holding big tech accountable.

1419 The original and the Senate-passed versions of KOSA
1420 included the duty of care standard. The standard means that
1421 social media companies must exercise care in the
1422 implementation of its design features to actually prevent and
1423 mitigate harms like compulsive and prolonged use. And a
1424 strong Federal duty of care standard would be an enormous
1425 protection for kids online when we know for a fact that,
1426 despite knowing the harms, tech companies have designed
1427 social media apps to keep kids hooked as long as possible.

1428 In 2020 Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram,
1429 conducted a study internally on the effect of users -- of
1430 deactivating their social media accounts, and the results
1431 showed that users actually reported lower feelings of

1432 depression, anxiety, loneliness, and social isolation. So
1433 what did Meta do? They buried it. Big tech knows exactly
1434 what their platforms are doing to their users, and there are
1435 no users more vulnerable out there than kids.

1436 Enforcing a duty of care would change these companies'
1437 behavior because it would allow us and parents to hold them
1438 accountable for the harms that they are causing to kids.
1439 But this bill has not only eliminated the duty of care
1440 standard included in previous versions, it actually bans any
1441 duty of care at the Federal or state level. How convenient,
1442 considering that the assumption of a duty of care is the
1443 basis of most of the lawsuits from parents whose children
1444 have died as a result of social media harms.

1445 And by the way, it is parents who are pleading for these
1446 standards, parents who have lost their kids because of the
1447 very real dangers of social media, and who have lost so much
1448 and still come here to Congress to try to make sure that
1449 other parents don't lose their children too. People who are
1450 watching this on TV can't see that dozens of these
1451 heartbroken parents are here today, and they want a stronger
1452 bill. And they are nodding right now because they want a
1453 stronger bill. Several visited me yesterday, and they asked
1454 me to vote against this watered-down bill that will not
1455 prevent more deaths.

1456 Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful Mr. Ruiz already

1457 requested that this letter be entered into the record. It is
1458 signed by 161 parents whose children have died and 283
1459 parents whose children suffered severe psychological harm
1460 from social media that opposes the version of KOSA that we
1461 are voting on today.

1462 This package and this version of KOSA are a pale
1463 comparison to the bipartisan, bicameral version of KOSA that
1464 I was so proud to help introduce and advocate for in the last
1465 Congress. And instead, today we are voting on a version that
1466 would not only fail to truly hold big tech accountable for
1467 how they have hurt kids, we have a version that would prevent
1468 grieving parents from seeking justice and that would ensure -
1469 - that would have ensured that social media companies could
1470 be held accountable.

1471 Big tech is preying on our kids, there is no dispute
1472 about that. They are designing apps for purposeful
1473 addiction, and profiteering off the results. And today we
1474 are voting on a bill that would make sure they can keep doing
1475 just that. My colleagues say this bill will protect kids
1476 online, but it actually just undermines every way we have and
1477 parents have to enforce protection.

1478 I have been a pediatrician for over 20 years, and I have
1479 seen firsthand how the rise in social media has impacted our
1480 kids, and I know how damaging social media and online
1481 addictions are for a developing brain. And we are already

1482 years behind, as you have heard from my colleagues, in
1483 passing the kind of comprehensive protections that our kids
1484 need and deserve, and we can't keep wasting time with these
1485 partisan exercises and actually damaging legislation.

1486 So I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this bill
1487 that protects big tech more than it protects children. We
1488 owe children and families so much more, and we can and we
1489 must do better.

1490 And I yield back.

1491 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
1492 further discussion?

1493 The gentlelady from Texas is recognized for five
1494 minutes.

1495 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Chairman Guthrie. I want to
1496 wholeheartedly agree with you that protecting kids online
1497 safety is an absolute imperative for this committee and for
1498 this Congress, but I do not agree with you that the KIDS Act
1499 does that. And it is really important that we get this
1500 right. And this bill doesn't.

1501 I want to make clear that this is not a case of making
1502 the perfect bill the enemy of a very good bill. The
1503 objections that you have heard from my colleagues on the
1504 Democratic side of the aisle today are about the exceptions
1505 that swallow the rule, the specific provisions in this bill
1506 that my colleagues have already explained in much more detail

1507 that render the rest of it meaningless. And that is the very
1508 opposite of what we are supposed to be doing here.

1509 And there are many parents who are here today in this
1510 hearing room with us, many more who cannot be with us in this
1511 hearing but who are watching, who are advocating, who are
1512 pleading with us, and who are living with loss and grief and
1513 fear for their children, their children who have been harmed,
1514 their children who have died, their children who are
1515 continuing to be harmed as a result of online activity. They
1516 want us to do something. But they don't just want us to do
1517 just anything so that we can say we did something, which is
1518 very much what this bill feels like. They want us to get it
1519 right, and they want us to actually help make kids safer
1520 online.

1521 So I want to use my time that I have to recognize some
1522 of the parents who are here today who oppose today's bill and
1523 for whom we must continue to work to get this legislation
1524 right. We have with us today Amy Neville, a parent of Alex
1525 Neville, forever 14; Mary Rodee, parent of Riley Basford,
1526 forever 16; Toney Roberts, parent of Englyn Roberts, forever
1527 14; Lori Schott and Avery Schott, parents of Annalee Schott,
1528 forever 18; Tricia Maciejewski, parent of Levi Maciejewski,
1529 forever 13; Julianna Arnold, parent of Coco Konar, forever
1530 17; Jennie Deserio, parent of Mason Edens, forever 16; Aaron
1531 Ping, parent of Avery Ping, forever 16; Kristin Bride, parent

1532 of Carson, forever 16; Jaimee from Kentucky, parent of
1533 Audree, forever 14; Steve K. of Washington, parent of John
1534 Doe, 13.

1535 Thank you all for being here. Thank you for turning
1536 your overwhelming loss and pain into purpose for the
1537 protection of kids and families across this country. We see
1538 you. We hear you. We are grateful to you. We are listening
1539 to you, and we will do better for you. Thank you.

1540 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1541 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Mr. Carter
1542 from Louisiana is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
1543 bill.

1544 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, thank you. I
1545 consistently hear my colleagues on the other side of the
1546 aisle saying this is not a perfect bill. And respectfully, I
1547 say it is not even close.

1548 Look at the faces of the surviving family members, the
1549 parents. Look at the beautiful faces of their children.
1550 They took time out to be with us today because they want to
1551 weigh in, because they want to be a part of a real solution,
1552 not a window-dressed solution, not one that gives big tech a
1553 pass.

1554 As a father of two boys and a mental health advocate,
1555 protecting youth mental health is a top priority for me.
1556 That is why I have serious concerns about AI chatbots and

1557 their impact on our children. AI is a powerful tool that can
1558 be beneficial when used correctly, but studies and data
1559 evaluating the risks and impacts of children using chatbots
1560 online are extremely limited. This puts our children's
1561 mental health in vulnerable and dangerous positions. More
1562 work must be done in this space, and a study would be a step
1563 in the right direction, not a piece of legislation that will
1564 be shelved, never again to be revisited.

1565 The bill we are currently considering, the Kids Internet
1566 and Digital Safety Act, includes a study that on this -- it
1567 includes a study of this very issue. However, it is
1568 unfortunate that the bipartisan agreement that we have --
1569 this study is being overshadowed by a larger package of bills
1570 for which we have yet to reach a compromise. For weeks
1571 Republicans and Democrats have been working together to reach
1572 an agreement that will protect children online -- children's
1573 online safety and data privacy, something I know you all want
1574 in this room.

1575 I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle
1576 are sincere in their efforts to protect our children, but the
1577 pressure from big tech has overshadowed even that sincere
1578 effort. I believe their efforts are sincere. However, we
1579 have fallen short because we have allowed big tech to rear
1580 its ugly head, its ugly checkbook, its far-reaching impact.
1581 We must protect children's online safety and data, something

1582 I know all members really want. I urge my Republican
1583 colleagues to come back to the negotiating table, work with
1584 us to have a real, robust, meaningful, comprehensive plan to
1585 give comfort to these families, to give comfort to these
1586 people who took time out of their schedules.

1587 This should not be partisan. This should not be about
1588 anything other than reining in the power of the internet, the
1589 power of the predators who would seek to destroy, to
1590 infiltrate systems that impact our young people. We see it
1591 every single day. We see the potential leave us far too
1592 soon. The next cure for cancer, the next president, the next
1593 Supreme Court justice may very well have been any of these
1594 beautiful children who had bright futures but fell prey to
1595 predators who took advantage of weaknesses in the system that
1596 today we are playing games with because we left the table
1597 while we were making great progress.

1598 And you will notice that they have buried in good
1599 components of this bill with really bad components of this
1600 bill, which forces us to vote against some measures that we
1601 like because they are tied together with measures that are
1602 woefully short in preparing and providing the kind of relief
1603 that you have asked for.

1604 As a father, I feel your pain. It is painful to watch
1605 you sit here knowing that we are at the cusp of doing
1606 something great, but we are stopping far, far before we cross

1607 that line of having meaningful -- not window dressing --
1608 meaningful protections that will save the lives of our
1609 children.

1610 I urge my colleagues to do the right thing. Table this
1611 measure and let's go back to the drawing board and come up
1612 with something that is real.

1613 Mr. Chairman, my time has expired and I yield.

1614 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
1615 recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Menendez.

1616 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. I want to thank
1617 all the family members for being here today, for lifting up
1618 the stories that you come and advocate with.

1619 You know, I have two kids. They are five and three.
1620 And so many of us have young kids and we thought that, coming
1621 to Congress, we would be able to take on the challenges that
1622 have impacted your lives directly. And it is frustrating to
1623 sit in this room and have to see you here, that -- to know
1624 that this isn't a partisan divide, that there have been
1625 versions of this bill which has the things that we want. So
1626 we are not asking for the impossible. So don't make it seem
1627 like we are the ones who are being partisan when you are
1628 driving this version forward when you know it doesn't do
1629 enough. And the hundreds of parents who have signed a letter
1630 have said it does not do enough, and you are going to turn
1631 your back on them, turn your back on all the children who are

1632 impacted by big tech.

1633 You know, we say that when we look at the future
1634 generation and the things that they are dealing with, the
1635 challenges they have, the aspirations that they have, that we
1636 raised them. Our decisions are to create the environment
1637 that they were raised in. And we failed. People that were
1638 in this chamber before us have failed, and now we have an
1639 opportunity to get it right moving forward for my children,
1640 for others, for grandchildren, for nieces and nephews, and we
1641 are not taking that opportunity.

1642 And my colleagues across the aisle are saying, trust us
1643 on this piece of legislation when in this Congress they sat
1644 here and said, trust us on the One Big, Beautiful Bill and
1645 that \$1 trillion out of Medicaid won't hit families, that the
1646 expiration of the ACA tax credits won't make health care more
1647 affordable -- expensive. And we have seen the impacts that
1648 this has -- it has had on families across the country. And
1649 we can't take your word on it.

1650 I would rather take the word of all the parents here who
1651 are asking us to go back, to negotiate in good faith as we
1652 have to get a bill that actually moves us in the right
1653 direction, that it has a duty of care standard, that has a
1654 more narrow preemption provision so we can move the ball in
1655 the right direction. But we can't sit here and pat ourselves
1656 on the back with this legislation when we know it doesn't do

1657 enough, based on the prior bipartisan bills that this
1658 committee has entertained that are -- have been before the
1659 Senate.

1660 So I am a no on this bill, and I encourage all my
1661 colleagues, who have done good work across the aisle, to be a
1662 no. Don't settle for this. Listen to the parents. Listen
1663 to the advocates in this room. Do the right thing and vote
1664 no and come back to the table and let's get something done.
1665 Because if it is bipartisan, then we will know it works for
1666 all Americans, it is resilient, and it will get the job done.
1667 I literally beg you to vote no. Listen to these folks, and
1668 please don't make them come back for more hearings in future
1669 congresses because we fail to do our job today.

1670 I yield back.

1671 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
1672 recognizes the gentlelady from Virginia, Ms. McClellan, for
1673 five minutes to speak on the bill.

1674 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1675 First I also want to thank the parents. I am one of the
1676 less than 1 percent of Members of Congress who is a mother to
1677 children under 18. I have got a 10-year-old girl and a 15-
1678 year-old boy, and I am constantly trying to strike the right
1679 balance between giving them enough freedom to grow and
1680 develop and figure out who they are, like I had as a kid, as
1681 part of Generation X, when my parents literally would let me

1682 go out and play until the lights came on, the street lights
1683 came on. And it was much easier for them to strike that
1684 balance between giving me that freedom to develop who I am
1685 today and keeping me safe. And you have experienced my worst
1686 nightmare.

1687 Now, my kids were born right after smartphones were
1688 invented and the beginning of social media. I worked for a
1689 tech company. I thought I was pretty sophisticated at
1690 figuring out how this stuff works, but it changes so rapidly
1691 I can't keep up. I can't keep up with these algorithms. I
1692 can't keep up with the new apps and what they do and how
1693 predators are finding new ways to exploit it, just like as a
1694 parent sometimes I can't keep up with the fact that my
1695 children know more about this technology and how it changes
1696 than I do, and they can figure out how to get around things
1697 that we think will keep them safe.

1698 A lower technology example: our schools banned cell
1699 phones. You had to bring it in and put it in a yonder pouch
1700 because parents lost their minds if they said kids couldn't
1701 take them with them at all, because the phone can be a tool
1702 to know they are safe. And yet these kids figured out
1703 instantly how to get around that policy. They could figure
1704 it out.

1705 Now, I know everybody in this committee wants to keep
1706 our kids safe and is trying to reach the right goal. But I

1707 think this debate boils down to two simple issues.

1708 One, who should bear the brunt of keeping our kids safe
1709 online? Parents who are doing the best they can in an
1710 incredibly complicated internet ecosystem, or the tech
1711 companies that develop and operate the apps and the programs
1712 and the games that the kids use, which most parents can't
1713 begin to fathom how they work or how rapidly they change?
1714 And without a duty of care, this bill effectively shifts that
1715 burden to the parents and says, you got to be the expert on
1716 the new algorithm and how it is going to addict your child.
1717 You have to be the expert on how sophisticated criminals
1718 figure out how to exploit your children, rather than the tech
1719 companies. I think that is the wrong answer.

1720 Second, these bills aren't future-proof. They can't be.
1721 Technology changes too rapidly. That is why they should be
1722 the floor and not the ceiling for protections for our kids.
1723 And who is better positioned to respond rapidly to evolving
1724 technology? Our states that have been incubators of
1725 innovation, or Congress? Well, having been in both now,
1726 Congress is extraordinarily slow. We are not good at being
1727 proactive. We are not that good at being reactive, quickly.

1728 Just this Congress alone, since March, 62 legislative
1729 days have been canceled, effectively delaying any legislation
1730 for at least 2 months. Last Congress it took several weeks
1731 first just to elect a Speaker, and then to elect a second

1732 one. States can respond much more quickly and often be more
1733 innovative than Congress, and yet this broad preemption
1734 provision handcuffs the very laboratories of innovation.

1735 Let me ask a question: How long has it taken Congress
1736 to adopt a comprehensive privacy legislation? Oh, I forgot
1737 we haven't done it yet.

1738 We owe it to our children and all parents, especially
1739 these, to get it right. And this bill doesn't do that.

1740 I yield back.

1741 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
1742 further discussion?

1743 The gentleman from Texas is recognized for five minutes
1744 to speak on the bill.

1745 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I move strike the last word.

1746 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
1747 bill.

1748 *Mr. Veasey. Every parent in America knows the internet
1749 isn't the same place that it was 20 years ago. A lot has
1750 changed. And as a parent of a 19-year-old who was recently a
1751 teenager, I know that children today are growing up in a
1752 digital ecosystem that is driven by algorithms and data
1753 harvesting and platforms that are truly designed to keep them
1754 scrolling. And Congress has a responsibility to step in and
1755 enact meaningful guardrails to rein in some of the study --
1756 and harmful effects on children's long-term well-being. It

1757 should be no surprise to anyone that even children now are
1758 saying that they wish that they didn't have these social
1759 media devices and these -- and some of these apps in their
1760 lives. Even the children are waking up.

1761 And we know that, as parents, that social media
1762 companies track what children watch and what they click, what
1763 they search, and who they interact with. It is about setting
1764 some basic guardrails up so companies can't exploit kids for
1765 -- data for profit.

1766 Protecting kids online should absolutely not be a
1767 partisan issue. I think that Democratic parents and
1768 Republican parents alike are hearing from families worried
1769 about what their kids are being exposed to online. And if we
1770 are serious about protecting our kids, then we have to work
1771 together to pass something that is strong and that is
1772 enforceable and contains privacy protections. If we are not
1773 serious, then Republicans will continue to ignore us and move
1774 forward with this bill. Instead of working with Democrats to
1775 craft a strong privacy standard that can pass the House, they
1776 are pushing messaging bills that ignore the input of parents,
1777 and that is not good. If you know how harmful these
1778 platforms can be for kids, then why turn these solutions into
1779 partisan fighting instead of actually rolling up our sleeves
1780 and getting something done for the kids and the parents of
1781 America?

1782 And I want to be clear here. Democrats are not trying
1783 to weaken protections. We want stronger protections. And I
1784 have got to tell you something, and this is something that
1785 for the tech companies and everybody out there to hear: If
1786 we don't pass it now, because parents want something -- and
1787 like I said, kids are saying that they want to do something -
1788 - something is going to eventually give. We ought to be
1789 taking proactive steps to do something now to prevent future
1790 tragedies because the status quo is just not going to -- it
1791 is not going to stand. It won't. It is not sustainable, the
1792 road that we are on right now.

1793 So we can either do it now or wait for more tragedies to
1794 happen and do it later. Let's work together. Let's pass
1795 strong privacy protections for kids and finally bring our
1796 laws into the 21st century.

1797 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1798 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
1799 recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Auchincloss,
1800 for five minutes to speak on the bill.

1801 *Mr. Auchincloss. Chairman, thank you. I want to
1802 address something that is actually not being discussed
1803 overtly right now, but is very much a common theme in a lot
1804 of the lobbying that happens around these bills, which is
1805 China.

1806 So I served on the Select Committee on China for two

1807 years, and was actually an original co-lead of the bill to
1808 force the divestment of TikTok from ownership and control by
1809 the Chinese Communist Party. So I consider myself in many
1810 ways a hawk on the competition between the United States and
1811 China on technology, whether it is online technology, whether
1812 it is biotechnology, et cetera.

1813 These companies exploit that, you know, patriotic drive
1814 for the United States to maintain a science and technology
1815 edge in the 21st century in an unbelievably cynical way.
1816 They come office to office and they say, you know, if you
1817 regulate us, we are all going to lose to China. That is what
1818 is going to happen. And I just want to prebut that right
1819 now, how absurd that claim is.

1820 First of all, look at what China itself does for its own
1821 social media usage for young children. Okay? It is a 90-
1822 minute time limit every single day, no usage at night. And
1823 it is all educational content. You think that slop that is
1824 spread across the internet that our kids are subjected to
1825 happens in China? No way. Nope. They have much stronger
1826 content controls.

1827 Now, I am not claiming that that is what we should do
1828 here in the United States. It is a different system. We
1829 have different values. But let's not claim that somehow
1830 China is going to out-compete us on tech because they allow
1831 their tech companies to attention-frack our children the way

1832 that our tech companies want to do. The way that we are
1833 going to out-compete China is by investing in education, in
1834 building 1,000 trade schools across this country to give our
1835 kids the skills they need to succeed, by surging one-on-one
1836 high-dosage tutoring in math and literacy after we have seen
1837 declines in academic performance since the pandemic.

1838 We do not need these tech companies to also claim that
1839 they are the ones who should be stewards of our children and
1840 the architects of our strategy against China. We can do that
1841 by investing in our children. And I don't want to hear
1842 claims that somehow common-sense regulation on behalf of
1843 parents and families hold us back in competing with China.

1844 I yield back.

1845 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
1846 further discussion?

1847 Seeing none, I have an amendment at the desk entitled
1848 Guthrie_008. The clerk will report the amendment.

1849 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1850 H.R. 7757 offered by Mr. Guthrie of Kentucky --

1851 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
1852 amendment is dispensed with.

1853 [The amendment of The Chair follows:]

1854

1855 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1856

1857 *The Chair. And I will recognize myself for five
1858 minutes in support of the amendment.

1859 Let me start with saying that we need to do more. We
1860 absolutely do need to do more, and that is why I have
1861 additional bills on the markup today.

1862 This bill, the KIDS Act, reflects where we could get in
1863 a bipartisan way. That is where we could get both sides to
1864 agree. But we have additional bills on the menu -- today,
1865 and we do respect the parents who are here. It is important
1866 that you are here. It is critical that you are here.

1867 Mr. Chapman is here. Mr. -- you guys come and you
1868 advocate, and you want to change things so your kids can be
1869 better. We have Sammy's bill on the floor today in honor of
1870 your daughter, and it is -- so it is important that it is
1871 here because -- and the reason it is not in this package of
1872 bills is because we couldn't get bipartisan support.

1873 Of all the things everybody talked about today, what
1874 Sammy's bill does is allow a parent to have complete control
1875 of their child's phone, complete control of their child's
1876 phone. And we couldn't get bipartisan agreement on that
1877 because -- I don't know why. Maybe because we are going up
1878 to the age of 16. We had a member on this side of the aisle
1879 say they had a daughter that was 15. A lot of the names that
1880 were read out were 14 and 15 and 16. You know, current law
1881 is -- brings it to 13. We want to bring it to 16.

1882 And so we are moving forward, and people will have the
1883 opportunity today when we vote for Sammy's Law -- I know
1884 there are Democrats and Republicans, but it is Debbie
1885 Wasserman, the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. Wasserman
1886 Schultz, and the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter, doing
1887 this bipartisan. And we couldn't get it in this portion of
1888 the bill because we couldn't get bipartisan agreement because
1889 it gives parents complete control and oversight of their
1890 child's phone up until they are 17 years old. And we
1891 couldn't get bipartisan agreement on that.

1892 So all this stuff that we are hearing from the other
1893 side of the aisle, we are going to see when Sammy's Law comes
1894 up for a vote what they really believe and where they really
1895 stand. And the claim that big tech supports this bill and
1896 what we are doing today, you only have to look at social
1897 media platforms today to see where big tech is -- has
1898 activated against our work today because we are holding them
1899 accountable.

1900 We are fighting for parents rights. We are here to
1901 protect kids. And some of the comments that people made
1902 about the underlying bill, this amendment that I just called
1903 up makes these changes. It seeks to ensure that parents do
1904 have the justice that the other side -- in courts. We have
1905 added a rule of construction to the conflict preemption in
1906 the KOSA bill that clearly carves out multiple critical state

1907 laws. That is where -- the preemption is too strong,
1908 preemption is not strong enough. What we do is make sure
1909 that state laws on trespass, state laws on contract, state
1910 laws on tort, and state laws on product liability are still
1911 in effect from this bill. That is what this amendment does.

1912 The FTC acts and the state -- general state consumer
1913 protection laws still stand, such as many FTC acts, and the
1914 state data privacy legislation still stand. Adding this rule
1915 of construction is a result of talking with stakeholders and
1916 hearing the interest from stakeholders, and hearing the
1917 position of parents with stakeholders, including trial
1918 attorneys. We talked with trial attorneys involved in
1919 litigation to help ensure that the KIDS Act will not disrupt
1920 ongoing cases against big tech. What you heard from the
1921 other side, this amendment ensures that you have the
1922 opportunity to go for it. We still can't get them to support
1923 it.

1924 These changes address ongoing efforts like litigation
1925 against Roblox that will not be affected, will not be
1926 affected by this law. In fact, I spoke to our home state
1927 attorney general. Kentucky is involved in the case against
1928 Roblox. I absolutely want the case against Roblox to go
1929 forward. So it says this will not undermine their current
1930 litigation. So you got to know what is the facts and what
1931 you have been hearing throughout this morning.

1932 The KIDS Act works in tandem with this important
1933 legislation, and preventing the type of litigation is not our
1934 intent. There is rule of construction, which is added in
1935 this amendment that helps make clear that we are working with
1936 law enforcement officials to protect children and teens
1937 online.

1938 So those who are here that are hearing that 14, 15, and
1939 16-year-olds, just know we are here to protect that. That is
1940 part of where our discussions broke down, which,
1941 unfortunately, it did. But we are going to have the
1942 opportunity to go on the record later today to see where
1943 people stand on these issues. And I will tell you, my side
1944 of the aisle is going to support it.

1945 And I will -- I yield back and I recognize the gentleman
1946 from New Jersey.

1947 *Mr. Pallone. I am -- just want to be brief, but I do
1948 want to stress, Mr. Chairman, that I don't believe that this
1949 ANS corrects the objections that the various Democrats have
1950 been making in their statements over the last hour or so, and
1951 that is why we are going to proceed with a number of
1952 amendments which we do think will make improvements to the
1953 bill. But this ANS does not correct the objections that we
1954 have had to this bill.

1955 And with that I yield back.

1956 *The Chair. Does anybody have a discussion with the ANS

1957 (sic)?

1958 The gentlelady from -- on our side of the aisle? Does
1959 anybody on our side of the aisle discuss -- the gentlelady
1960 from California is recognized for five minutes to speak on
1961 the amendment.

1962 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1963 I want to start by saying that AAJ, the American
1964 Association for Justice, who are lawyers that represent
1965 families and parents on litigation, opposes this amendment.
1966 So to suggest that this amendment fixes that and that it is
1967 not going to be disruptive at all to parents' abilities to
1968 file lawsuits and to hold social media companies accountable
1969 is, I think, disingenuous. And so I wanted to start by
1970 correcting that record.

1971 Second, Mr. Chairman, I disagree with your assessment of
1972 how you started the conversation in saying that this bill is
1973 -- that this package of bills is failing, and why it is
1974 failing.

1975 I want to start by reminding everybody that in 2024 this
1976 committee, chaired by Cathy McMorris Rodgers, had a hearing
1977 on Kids Online Safety Act. The Senate passed that bill by a
1978 vote of 91 to 3. That is a truly bipartisan effort. Then
1979 the chair of this committee, then-committee, Cathy McMorris
1980 Rodgers, had a hearing here and it passed out of this
1981 committee unanimously. That is what bipartisanship is. It

1982 is not taking a bill that was truly bipartisan, gutting the
1983 bill to basically say, hey, we are going to make it harder
1984 for parents to hold social media companies accountable, we
1985 are going to make it harder for parents.

1986 Who are we first for? Are we -- first the parents? Are
1987 we for the kids? Or the big money? Who are we for?

1988 Now, I couldn't help but remember -- I had to attend the
1989 inauguration -- of who was at the inauguration. Let's see.
1990 Big tech CEOs, lots of them. And as -- if I remember
1991 correctly, they donated a million dollars each. Did that
1992 have some influence? I don't know, I am just noticing facts
1993 that we were able to do this in a bipartisan way and now, all
1994 of a sudden, there is efforts to put in provisions that are
1995 going to help prevent liability from big tech and from the
1996 social media companies.

1997 So I had not planned on speaking today, but when I hear
1998 some inaccuracies and want to -- when we hear about talking
1999 about bipartisanship, there is a bipartisan way to do it. We
2000 have done this. Getting a bill that was bipartisan, though,
2001 and gutting it and then throwing in 11 other bills to it and
2002 putting it into a package and saying, you see, Democrats are
2003 not for kids' safety is total misinformation, disinformation,
2004 misguidance.

2005 Let's go back to the real bipartisanship. Let's go back
2006 to my colleagues who actually were for this other piece of

2007 legislation in 2024 that had this duty of care that was on
2008 the platforms, not on parents and not on kids, and not making
2009 it harder to hold them liable.

2010 And so with that I oppose not just the amendment, but
2011 the package, and agree we should table this and go back to
2012 what was done and where we were at when we had almost
2013 everybody in the Senate and at least everybody in this
2014 committee in 2024.

2015 And I yield back.

2016 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
2017 from Texas is recognized for -- could I -- would you yield me
2018 -- you have five minutes. Would you yield me a couple of
2019 seconds, anyway?

2020 *Mr. Weber. Yes, sir. Go ahead, Mr. Chairman.

2021 *The Chair. Well, thank you.

2022 So the gentlelady from California, in my opening
2023 statement I said we all want child safety. If anything came
2024 out of my mouth that we are -- all want child safety. I am -
2025 - we all want our children to be protected on the internet.

2026 What I am saying is the package of bills before us, it
2027 is not bipartisan in the sense that every -- both sides agree
2028 with it. It is all of the bills that we could agree upon in
2029 a bipartisan way. Some things fell out, and they have been
2030 added to separate bills on the outside of this package is my
2031 point.

2032 And also, there was concern that there was --

2033 *Ms. Barragan. Will the gentleman yield for a minute?

2034 *The Chair. Yes.

2035 *Ms. Barragan. Well, that is not accurate, though. You
2036 are suggesting that the kids online safety part is
2037 bipartisan, and it is not. That is why we are not supporting
2038 this.

2039 *The Chair. Well --

2040 *Ms. Barragan. Because you guys gutted it and changed
2041 it.

2042 *The Chair. I am sorry. It is --

2043 *Ms. Barragan. I yield back.

2044 *The Chair. Right. What I am saying is we didn't --
2045 this is where we could get to on the bipartisan negotiation.

2046 So the second thing that I want to -- so -- but what I
2047 also want to say is that there was concerns that people had
2048 that this would stop the litigation in the courts. And this
2049 has been added to make sure that the Roblox -- my state is
2050 going after them, and I am glad they are, and so this makes
2051 sure those continue forward.

2052 So I will yield back to Mr. Weber.

2053 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and that is
2054 exactly what I raised when I discussed with you and the staff
2055 that I was concerned the cause of actions would not be had,
2056 number one. And number two, it would violate -- I would --

2057 actually, supersede states' rights, and I didn't like that.
2058 We heard from some of our schools in the district that they
2059 didn't like it, and so we had that discussion and you made it
2060 clear that it didn't supersede states' rights, it will --
2061 hopefully, it will not affect any cause of actions because
2062 our kids are important and our families are important. And
2063 when these things happen, then those big techs need to be
2064 held accountable.

2065 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2066 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

2067 *The Chair. The gentleman's time -- you got the
2068 gentlelady from -- you yield back?

2069 He yields back. Okay. The gentleman -- the gentlelady
2070 from Michigan is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
2071 amendment.

2072 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you. I yield what time he needs
2073 to the ranking minority, Frank Pallone.

2074 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you. I want to thank the
2075 gentlewoman from Michigan.

2076 Look, I don't want to belabor this too much, because I
2077 do think we should get to the amendments that we do believe,
2078 as Democrats, will help make this bill better. But I just
2079 have to -- I have to explain.

2080 There were plenty of negotiations over the last few
2081 months, right? The bottom line is most of the things that we

2082 as Democrats wanted in the bill were not included, right?

2083 And I just want to mention a few things, why we have a
2084 problem. And you have heard it all from my Democratic
2085 colleagues.

2086 But basically, we think that this bill lets big tech off
2087 the hook with a nearly impossible-to-meet knowledge standard.
2088 It stops progress to protect kids in the state with
2089 preemption of state laws, which is also going to impact
2090 ongoing lawsuits brought by parents. It makes vulnerable
2091 kids less safe, including kids in unsafe home environments.
2092 And also, as I mentioned, it doesn't include legislation to
2093 stop data brokers from profiting off of kids' data.

2094 So there are all these things and more that have been
2095 mentioned. I suggest we just get to the amendments at this
2096 point which we believe, if passed, would help correct the
2097 deficiencies in this bill. I don't think they are going to
2098 pass, because the Republicans will probably oppose them. But
2099 hope springs eternal.

2100 And I would yield -- you want --

2101 *Ms. DeGette. No, no, you have to yield back.

2102 *Mr. Pallone. I yield back to the gentlewoman --

2103 *Ms. DeGette. Yes, will --

2104 *Mr. Pallone. -- from Michigan.

2105 *Ms. DeGette. -- the gentlelady yield to me?

2106 *Mrs. Dingell. Yes, I yield.

2107 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you.

2108 *Mrs. Dingell. The gentlewoman from Colorado.

2109 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you. Okay. I am about to get
2110 lawyerly now.

2111 And I want to say I appreciate my colleague from Texas
2112 being concerned about the state, the preemption of the state
2113 laws. The problem is the language in this ANS that is
2114 allegedly designed to protect the preemption -- or the state
2115 tort law, it actually -- the preemption provision plus a rule
2116 of construction carving out tort law does not save the cases
2117 or state laws that are more protective of kids, and here is
2118 why.

2119 House KOSA creates so many conflicts with more
2120 protective state laws that a rule of construction can't save
2121 them. The conflict preemption provision will control and
2122 wipe out the cases and the state laws that they are based on,
2123 so a rule of construction won't work. The exceptions have to
2124 be exceptions to the conflict preemption as exemptions to the
2125 preemption language itself.

2126 So let me try to explain that a little more in depth.
2127 Okay, the House KOSA says platforms owe no duty of care.
2128 State laws are based on assumption of duty of care. So if
2129 you knock out the duty of care on conflict preemption, there
2130 is no tort law to save. There is no negligence case if you
2131 have no duty, if you can follow that.

2132 So also, House KOSA says the only duty platforms have is
2133 to write their own rules and policies. And as long as they
2134 have their own rule, anything that holds them to a different
2135 standard is "in conflict with House KOSA."

2136 And so also it says, "actual knowledge." Actual
2137 knowledge is required for both regulation and enforcement.
2138 So tech platforms can't be held accountable -- and this is
2139 exactly what Congresswoman Castor and others have been saying
2140 -- tech platforms can't be held accountable unless they have
2141 actual knowledge or willfully disregard that a child is on
2142 their platforms. State laws say that tech platforms can held
2143 -- be held accountable if they reasonably should have known
2144 that a child was on their platforms. That is the difference.
2145 So if we are going to be serious about protecting parents'
2146 cases, you have to say that in the bill. Otherwise, the
2147 courts are going to rule that they are not protected.

2148 One more thing. The Supreme Court has abolished the
2149 preemption against -- I am sorry, the presumption against
2150 preemption in express preemption cases. They said in 2016 in
2151 a case that "because the statute contains an express
2152 preemption clause, we do not invoke any presumption against
2153 preemption, but instead focus on the plain wording of the
2154 clause which necessarily contains the best evidence of
2155 Congress's preemptive intent." That means that the
2156 preemption language that is routinely used to bar

2157 supplementary, more protective state law cases, even when
2158 they provide essential protections for families -- and I have
2159 more, but I think you get the gist of it. And if not, I am
2160 happy to say it over again.

2161 [Laughter.]

2162 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, and I yield back.

2163 *The Chair. Thank you. The Ranking member wants to
2164 move to amendments, so is there any further discussion on the
2165 ANS?

2166 Seeing none, the gentlelady from -- oh, for the ANS, on
2167 the ANS? The gentlelady from Indiana is recognized for her
2168 amendment.

2169 *Mrs. Houchin. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
2170 desk.

2171 *The Chair. The clerk will report -- or the gentlelady
2172 will identify her amendment.

2173 *Mrs. Houchin. HOUCHI_084.

2174 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

2175 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
2176 a substitute to H.R. 7757.

2177 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
2178 amendment is dispensed with.

2179

2180

2181

2182 [The amendment of Mrs. Houchin follows:]

2183

2184 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2185

2186 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
2187 minutes in support of the amendment.

2188 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2189 Thirty years ago Congress decided that thirteen was the
2190 age of internet adulthood not because science said so, but
2191 because it was politically convenient. And in 30 years no
2192 one has ever gone back to ask whether or not we got it right.
2193 We didn't.

2194 Researchers have documented that the most dangerous
2195 windows of harm fall between the ages of 11 and 13 for girls,
2196 and 14 and 15 for boys. These aren't statistics to me.
2197 These are children. These are the ages when depression sets
2198 in, when eating disorders take hold, when kids should be
2199 playing sports and making friends, and instead are staring at
2200 screens being told they are not enough.

2201 I have sat with parents who have lost their children to
2202 the harms of these platforms. That is why I am here today.
2203 I have my own personal story about having an inability to
2204 take away an app that my 13-year-old daughter downloaded on
2205 her phone. And when she was engaging in unsafe behaviors I
2206 contacted the platform and had a complete inability to have
2207 the account deleted. They told me she is 13, she is legally
2208 able to have the account based on the 1996 law saying that a
2209 13-year-old can have access to the internet.

2210 So my RESET Act asks a simple question: Is 13 still the

2211 right threshold? The science says no. The data says no.
2212 Parents who have lost children because of what happened to
2213 them online say no. At 16 adolescents are not yet adults,
2214 but they are more mature, more resilient, and better equipped
2215 to navigate these platforms than age 13. Personally, I would
2216 prefer this be 18, but we were trying to work in a bipartisan
2217 fashion and moving the threshold to 16 gets us ahead of the
2218 most dangerous exposure windows.

2219 This is not a radical idea. Australia has done it. The
2220 European Union is moving in the same direction. And big tech
2221 will push back. They always do. There are concerns that
2222 have been raised about the First Amendment, but the 11th
2223 Circuit has already signaled that laws like this can survive
2224 constitutional scrutiny. The RESET Act is designed with
2225 those legal principles in mind, creating a clear national
2226 standard enforced by the FTC and states attorneys general.

2227 Mr. Chairman, I appreciate you working with me and for
2228 being open to the case for a 16-year-old minimum standard. I
2229 am committed to continuing to work with you on this and with
2230 my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I yield back.

2231 *The Chair. The gentlelady -- will you yield to me? I
2232 just want to -- before you yield back I just want to say,
2233 yes, we have worked together and will continue to work
2234 together on this issue. And I will yield back to you. And
2235 do you yield back?

2236 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, I yield back.

2237 *The Chair. The gentleman from Massachusetts is
2238 recognized for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

2239 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Chairman. I want to
2240 express my support for the principles that animate the RESET
2241 Act in this amendment.

2242 Thirteen, even if it were properly enforced, which it is
2243 not, is not the right age for internet adulthood. I think we
2244 have learned that over the last 20 years. And Jonathan Haidt
2245 and "The Anxious Generation," I think, has mapped out the
2246 science and the data in compelling fashion about the
2247 deterioration of children's mental health, cognitive
2248 development because of the Wild West online realm that these
2249 digital empires have exposed them to. And so I support what
2250 the congresswoman from Indiana is trying to do, which is
2251 raise that to at least 16. I am committed to working with
2252 her on that in a bipartisan fashion.

2253 And I would also -- I would invite members on both sides
2254 of this aisle -- we have heard so many people speak
2255 eloquently, particularly our parents in this committee, about
2256 how frustrated we all are and how much we want to use the
2257 power that we have on this committee to address these harms.
2258 I want to invite those members on both sides of the aisle to
2259 come work with the congresswoman from Indiana and me. We
2260 have got a -- we have got some momentum going. We got two

2261 bills that we have done already. We are working bipartisan.
2262 We are working in good faith. We are taking each other's
2263 feedback, and we want our group to get bigger. So come,
2264 please, work with us.

2265 I yield back.

2266 *Mrs. Houchin. Will the gentleman yield?

2267 *The Chair. The gentleman -- oh, would you yield to --

2268 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes, I will yield to the
2269 congresswoman from Indiana.

2270 *The Chair. Great.

2271 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, thank you, Representative
2272 Auchincloss. I want to thank you for working with me on the
2273 bills that we have been able to work in a bipartisan fashion,
2274 and also for your co-leadership of the Kids Online Safety
2275 Caucus.

2276 I would be remiss if I didn't mention that and encourage
2277 members on both sides of the aisle to join us in our efforts
2278 to work together to solve these issues.

2279 And I yield back to you.

2280 *The Chair. Will you yield back to me, gentleman from
2281 Massachusetts, will you yield?

2282 I just wanted to echo that we will continue to work
2283 together on this.

2284 *Mr. Pallone. Has she withdrawn it?

2285 *The Chair. No, no.

2286 *Mr. Pallone. Well, then, I would like to say
2287 something.

2288 *The Chair. The gentleman -- so did you yield back, the
2289 gentleman from Massachusetts has yielded back?

2290 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes, yes.

2291 *The Chair. So the -- you -- so I have Mr. --

2292 *Voice. Fedorchak.

2293 *The Chair. And Mr. Bilirakis is recognized for five
2294 minutes --

2295 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you --

2296 *The Chair. -- to speak on the amendment.

2297 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate
2298 it.

2299 As a cosponsor of the RESET Act, I want to echo the
2300 comments of Mrs. Houchin. I think it is common sense, folks.

2301 I think we have failed to remember that for the -- for
2302 several years Facebook required college email to sign up. So
2303 it was it was intended -- again, this was not intended for
2304 minors, with regard to Facebook. And they were effectively
2305 excluded from the site by the email domain requirement.
2306 Since the proliferation of the social media among our youth,
2307 we have seen harm. I mean, we have seen harm grow. It is
2308 right there. I mean, the evidence is there.

2309 And, you know, I want to continue to work with the
2310 parents. And again, our heart goes out to the parents. And

2311 I want to continue.

2312 We didn't walk away from the negotiating table, by the
2313 way. That is a fact. I want to work with my Democratic
2314 colleagues on this bill, this particular amendment, but the
2315 entire package.

2316 I want to commend the staffs. They have been working
2317 for years to get this right. And I think we have a great
2318 bill here.

2319 But I want to get back to Mrs. Houchin's bill or
2320 particular amendment that she is going to withdraw, but I
2321 think it has to be said our kids are plainly addicted, just
2322 like many of the adults here in this room. It is impacting
2323 their ability, our children, to learn at school. It is
2324 causing isolation and depression. It is stunting creativity.
2325 It is literally changing the neural connections of their
2326 brain, and even their physical growth and body posture. And
2327 I have seen it with my kids, as well. Adults may be able to
2328 cope with this, but children cannot. They cannot. It has
2329 been proven. And the dangers only continue to grow.

2330 So I think the RESET Act - and again, it is an
2331 amendment, and I know the chairman will work with us on this
2332 -- is a great marker to have as we confront some difficult
2333 questions about the future of our youth. So we appreciate
2334 you very much.

2335 And I want the parents to know that if this bill passes

2336 out of full committee, we will work with you. We will work
2337 with you to find some consensus and common ground before it
2338 gets to the floor.

2339 So thank you very much, and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2340 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
2341 recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey for five minutes to
2342 speak on the amendment.

2343 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard Mr.
2344 Bilirakis say that the gentlewoman from Indiana was going to
2345 withdraw the amendment, but I haven't heard her say that. So
2346 maybe I could ask her if she intends to withdraw it.
2347 Otherwise, I am going to just keep talking here.

2348 *Mrs. Houchin. I do intend to withdraw the amendment
2349 after debate.

2350 *Mr. Pallone. All right. Thank you very much.

2351 *The Chair. The gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Griffith,
2352 is recognized for five minutes.

2353 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you very much. I just want to
2354 echo some of the comments in a bipartisan fashion we have
2355 heard.

2356 I think 13 is too young. I think 16 is right. It is
2357 interesting, they have referenced science, it is also true
2358 that the common law recognized a sliding scale for
2359 responsibility that, you know, a sliding scale roughly from
2360 12 to about 16. And so it is not just science, it is long

2361 experience over the centuries that tells us that 13 is too
2362 young and that parents should be involved.

2363 And I will have to sit down and think about the concept
2364 maybe of going to 18 that my colleague mentioned, but 16
2365 absolutely should be the minimum, and I would hope that we
2366 would move towards Mrs. Houchin's 16 number as we move
2367 forward in working on these concepts.

2368 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

2369 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Mr. Soto from
2370 Florida is recognized for five minutes.

2371 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2372 In Florida we have this as the law of our state, and it
2373 is something that is bipartisan. When you look at all the
2374 complexities of the duty of care and preemption and all these
2375 other things we are going to have to debate in this
2376 committee, one thing is actually pretty simple, which is that
2377 kids under 16 should not have access to social media unless
2378 parents agree to allow them to do that. We should be
2379 protecting kids, empowering parents, and this is something
2380 where you could get a lot of bipartisan support on.

2381 In Florida you can't get a driver's license before 16.
2382 It is a challenge to be able to work before 16. There are a
2383 lot of things on the way to adulthood we allow at 16, and so
2384 that is why I think very rarely do all the Florida Democrats
2385 and Republicans all agree on something, but I think we have

2386 broad support for this issue, and it is something I would
2387 hope you would seriously consider as we move through this.

2388 And I yield back.

2389 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. The
2390 gentlelady from North Dakota is recognized for five minutes
2391 to speak on the amendment.

2392 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you
2393 to my good friend, Representative Houchin, and Representative
2394 Auchincloss for leading on this issue.

2395 As a fellow mom of three, I couldn't agree more that the
2396 right age standard for using covered social media platforms
2397 should be 16, and here is why. At 13 kids are still learning
2398 how to navigate the world around them. At ages 13, 14, and
2399 15 my kids were in junior high. They were flooded with
2400 hormones, flooded with insecurities, trying to figure out
2401 friendships, and just trying to fit in. At age 13 kids are
2402 still kids. Their judgment, their resilience, and their
2403 understanding of long-term consequences are still developing.
2404 Yet today's social media platforms expose them to powerful
2405 algorithms designed to capture their attention, collect their
2406 personal data, and maximize their engagement. That is not a
2407 fair fight for a middle schooler.

2408 The RESET Act simply restores common sense. In nearly
2409 every other area of life we recognize that minors need clear
2410 boundaries, especially when it comes to complex commercial

2411 interactions. We set age limits for driving, for contracts,
2412 for other activities where the risks are real, and online
2413 platforms are no different. This legislation draws a clear,
2414 enforceable line. It prevents companies from exploiting a
2415 vulnerable age group, requires a shutdown of under-16
2416 accounts, and ensures that minors' personal data is deleted
2417 while giving families a short window to download their
2418 information. Just as importantly, it establishes a clear
2419 national standard so parents, kids, and companies all know
2420 the rules of the road.

2421 This isn't about keeping kids from technology. It is
2422 about giving them time to grow up before being thrown into a
2423 digital environment that robs them of their innocence and is
2424 dangerous to their well-being. I strongly support this
2425 amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same either
2426 today or down the road as we work through these issues.

2427 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

2428 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
2429 there further discussion on this amendment?

2430 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Indiana is recognized.

2431 *Mrs. Houchin. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your
2432 willingness to work on this issue continuously. It is
2433 extremely important we don't allow this big loophole. I ask
2434 unanimous consent at this time to withdraw my amendment and
2435 look forward to continuing to working on the issue.

2436 *The Chair. Without objection, the amendment is
2437 withdrawn.

2438 Are there further amendments to -- the gentlelady from
2439 Florida is recognized. Or for what purpose does the
2440 gentlelady from Florida seek recognition?

2441 *Ms. Castor. I have an amendment at the desk. It is
2442 Castor_049.

2443 *The Chair. Castor_049. The clerk will report.

2444 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
2445 a substitute to H.R. 7757 offered by Ms. --

2446 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
2447 amendment is dispensed with.

2448 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

2449

2450 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2451

2452 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Florida --

2453 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman, I reserve a
2454 point of order.

2455 *The Chair. A point of order is reserved. The
2456 gentlelady from Florida is recognized for five minutes in
2457 support of her amendment.

2458 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2459 Before I get to the heart of my amendment, I have some
2460 good news out of the U.S. Senate, and I want to bring it up
2461 now because it gives us an opportunity later when we get to
2462 COPPA 2.0 to actually do something meaningful. The United
2463 States Senate has just passed a COPPA 2.0, which is
2464 essentially the Castor-Walberg version from the last
2465 Congress, by unanimous consent this morning. So I highlight
2466 that because we could, when we get to that bill, reinstitute
2467 the bipartisan version and speed it on its way to passage.

2468 But this amendment, back to the KOSA and the KIDS Act,
2469 would close the loopholes that are -- that exist throughout
2470 the Republican bill that would allow big tech to continue to
2471 harm kids, their safety, and their privacy. My amendment
2472 does two things. It strengthens the knowledge standard and
2473 it clarifies the preemption language.

2474 A stronger knowledge standard will hold the tech
2475 companies accountable. Otherwise, companies claim ignorance,
2476 right? They argue that they cannot be held responsible

2477 because they don't know who is using their platforms or what
2478 is happening on them, even though we know this is false. An
2479 actual knowledge standard that is applied throughout the bill
2480 right now is a giant loophole because proving actual
2481 knowledge is an incredibly high bar for enforcers to meet.
2482 It allows the social media companies to continue. They look
2483 the other way when their platforms are harming kids, and they
2484 leave parents and regulators with the burden of proving the
2485 company's intentions in court.

2486 So my updated knowledge standard expands it to -- they
2487 have to have actual knowledge or to have knowledge fairly
2488 implied on the basis of objective circumstances. We know,
2489 based upon recent testimony in court cases brought by
2490 grieving parents, that the companies are aware of their
2491 harmful content, yet they continue to try to hide behind
2492 these knowledge standards. Whistleblowers have corroborated
2493 these findings, showing that it is a deliberate choice to
2494 turn a blind eye to the foreseeable dangers.

2495 Families deserve assurance that companies like Meta
2496 cannot hide behind these knowledge standards. So what my
2497 amendment does, it closes this loophole throughout the entire
2498 package. We are going to create a legal framework that
2499 applies comprehensively across all of the provisions of the
2500 law. It ensures that knowledge standards are applied
2501 consistently, and that platforms cannot pick and choose where

2502 they will act. This is a cohesive approach that is essential
2503 for the law to function effectively. It links legal duties
2504 and risk mitigation and platform responsibility.

2505 Additionally, my amendment also addresses preemption
2506 because we do not want to leave any room for companies to
2507 undermine state-level protections or claims. This makes
2508 clear that the law's protective intent is uniform, it is
2509 enforceable, and not subject to contradictory interpretations
2510 that could weaken safeguards for children.

2511 Members, my -- this amendment is kind of the heart of
2512 the difference. It is the giant loophole that tech companies
2513 will exploit, and I know you don't want to be party to that.
2514 I have heard you loud and clear that you are sincerely
2515 interested in making a difference and standing up to the tech
2516 companies. This is the amendment to prove it, along with
2517 what we can do to get COPPA 2.0 back to the bipartisan
2518 version. This is about accountability, consistency, and
2519 protection, the things you can say you believe in, but if you
2520 keep the version as it is now you belie all of the intent.

2521 Frankly, it looks like already big tech's fingerprints
2522 are all over this bill. They figured out a clever way to
2523 veil -- this is a cleverly-veiled way to gut stronger state
2524 protections under the guise of child safety, and we just
2525 shouldn't stand for it.

2526 We need to craft a strong law together, and we can do

2527 this. We did it before in the last Congress. There is no
2528 reason why we should capitulate to the tech companies now.
2529 Let's stand up for kids. Let's reinsert the heart of the
2530 matter here by -- with a stronger preemption, stronger
2531 standard that they can't use as a shield in court. It is up
2532 to the responsibility that we have to kids and families, not
2533 the big tech companies. They have too much power here.
2534 Let's show them today that we stand with the parents and
2535 families, and believe that we can make progress.

2536 Thank you, I yield, I urge you to vote yes on the Castor
2537 amendment. Thank you.

2538 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
2539 The gentlelady from Florida, Mrs. Cammack, is recognized for
2540 five minutes for -- to speak on the amendment.

2541 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek
2542 recognition to speak in opposition to this amendment.

2543 And I want to thank my colleague from the Sunshine State
2544 for opening up and dovetailing this for me. She said that
2545 big tech's fingerprints are all over this bill. I find that
2546 to be a little bit hypocritical, considering that the only
2547 proposal that was offered to this committee was actually
2548 written by big tech, and then they offered it.

2549 But I can tell you whose fingerprints are all over this
2550 amendment: the trial attorneys. The trial attorneys wrote
2551 this amendment. See, this amendment introduces a vague,

2552 constructive knowledge standard that will act as a blank
2553 check for regulatory abuse by an undoubtedly future
2554 weaponized FTC. How do I know that?

2555 Well, one, I served on the weaponization committee last
2556 Congress, and I witnessed an overreach that you cannot even
2557 begin to imagine. We saw Lina Khan, the Biden FTC chair,
2558 move without unduly burdening legitimate business activity
2559 from the commission's mission statement, fundamentally
2560 changing how they operate. That subsequently became a target
2561 for American businesses.

2562 So let's be clear. This is just a deliberate move to
2563 attack Main Street mom-and-pop businesses because we know in
2564 her tenure, Lina Khan, she started speculative lawsuits
2565 against otherwise law-abiding companies, colluded with
2566 European regulators to undermine U.S. businesses, committed
2567 ethics violations on cases she would have otherwise been
2568 forced to recuse herself from, and embraced algorithm
2569 discrimination theories to stretch consumer protection
2570 authorities beyond the law. We cannot give this power to the
2571 next chair of the FTC which we know will continue to be
2572 weaponized unless a departure is made.

2573 So the underlying bill already contains a strong
2574 enforceable standard. Platforms are liable if they have
2575 actual knowledge or if they are willfully -- or if they
2576 willfully disregard that a user is a minor.

2577 Additionally, this section's preemption provision is
2578 narrowly written to specifically preempt what the bill is
2579 regulating, and nothing more. A state still has the ability
2580 to enact laws and regulations that fall outside the specific
2581 issue that is being preempted, and this was confirmed with
2582 the states in question that have been mentioned here today.

2583 Now, further, I am going to read this out loud so
2584 everyone in the room can be on the same page here: "Nothing
2585 in subsection A may be construed to preempt the applicability
2586 of any state -- any law of a state with respect to trespass,
2587 contract, tort, or product liability; any statutory law that
2588 creates a remedy or penalty for criminal conduct; or any law
2589 of general applicability of a state with respect to consumer
2590 protection.'" This rule of construction is incredibly
2591 explicit. It directly preserves the ability for a parent to
2592 access the courts and protects ongoing lawsuits against
2593 social media and online gaming companies.

2594 I started out my remarks talking about the fingerprints
2595 of the trial bar on this amendment. You don't have to take
2596 my word for it, but we come with receipts. See, the very
2597 association that I just mentioned was in direct communication
2598 with the committee this week. This week. And if you don't
2599 believe that, then look no further than the talking points
2600 that they issued that became the actual legislative text that
2601 has been offered here today. They don't want us to

2602 legislate. They think that Congress needs to act to protect
2603 -- they don't think that Congress should protect kids. They
2604 have told us that much because that is what their talking
2605 points say. They want the ability to make money. That is
2606 what this is about.

2607 With our language, as written, we strike the balance of
2608 setting national safety standards and preserving a parent's
2609 ability to seek justice and hold big tech accountable. And I
2610 encourage all of my colleagues to reject this amendment and
2611 vote yes on the underlying bill.

2612 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield.

2613 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields. Is there back
2614 further discussion on the amendment?

2615 Mr. Soto from Florida is recognized for five minutes to
2616 speak on the amendment.

2617 *Mrs. Cammack. It is literally their talking points.

2618 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, this
2619 amendment is really the whole ball game here, right? We want
2620 to protect our kids. We want parents who are here today
2621 deserve -- they deserve the truth. And the truth is that
2622 this bill falls woefully short.

2623 It is actually pretty outrageous to weaken standards
2624 with a straight face in this committee today. We don't need
2625 to lock the courthouse doors or make justice next to
2626 impossible.

2627 I know a lot of these different standards are very
2628 confusing, especially to a lot of the parents and non-lawyers
2629 in the room, and so I wanted to take a few minutes to go over
2630 them. Two main points: it will be next to impossible for
2631 victims to prove actual knowledge in court, and preemption
2632 hurts stronger state laws. And as an aside, there were prior
2633 bills that included both of these that we all voted for last
2634 year in the subcommittee and -- excuse me, last term in the
2635 subcommittee -- and now they are gone, right?

2636 So under this you must show a social media site had
2637 actual knowledge of harm to kids, rather than the proper
2638 standard, which is duty of care. That means you have to show
2639 a social media site knew that their algorithm or other
2640 practice was very addictive to kids, or that it was causing
2641 depression, or that they facilitated drug dealing or sexual
2642 sex trafficking.

2643 The proper standard should be duty of care because a
2644 jury would understand it is -- either knew or should have
2645 known that these practices were harming kids. The victims
2646 would have to show a company specifically knew that that
2647 algorithm or that practice causes harm, find the smoking gun,
2648 which rarely ever occurs. Some smoking gun email, or a
2649 study, or other evidence that they knew specifically. As I
2650 -- as an attorney, I can tell you this rarely ever happens.

2651 With the duty of care standard, juries can use common

2652 sense. They can say, you know what? After thousands of kids
2653 have been hurt, perhaps they should have known that that
2654 practice, that algorithm, that addictive part of it was
2655 harmful, and maybe they should have done something about it.
2656 If this becomes law, we may never see victims' families
2657 prevail in court again. We may see some of these court cases
2658 that are already there because we heard a discussion about it
2659 continue to move forward. But anyone going forward after
2660 this, it makes it harder.

2661 And I am not here to demonize tech companies. I am not
2662 here to demonize trial lawyers, which, by the way, attorneys
2663 will be both defending all these families and also the
2664 companies. But if we make it harder with this bill, how
2665 could we in good faith support it?

2666 Briefly on point two, preemption is tricky. States
2667 should have some discretion on greater protections. We just
2668 all talked about what we have in Florida: a social media ban
2669 for kids under 16, where parents can opt out their kids if
2670 they would like to. This law has bipartisan support in
2671 Florida and has been upheld by the courts, including the 11th
2672 circuit.

2673 And so we want to make sure we are getting these two
2674 areas right. That is why everybody came here today, to make
2675 sure we have justice. And so not only do the major issues
2676 matter, but the details matter to make sure that the

2677 courthouse doors remain open, that we give victims some
2678 rights to be able to prosecute their cases, and to make sure
2679 that states have some role in this.

2680 And with that, that is why I think this is the
2681 amendment, this is the crossroads. This is where, if we all
2682 vote for it, you could see a bipartisan bill out today. And
2683 if we don't, we still have a major divide that has to be
2684 bridged to get us back to the very bills we agreed on last
2685 term.

2686 And with that I thank the gentlelady for -- my fellow
2687 Floridian -- for filing this very good amendment.

2688 And I yield back.

2689 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Is
2690 there further discussion on the amendment, further discussion
2691 of the amendment on either side?

2692 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote
2693 occurs on the amendment. A roll call has been requested.

2694 The roll call has been requested, and the clerk will call the
2695 roll.

2696 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

2697 *Mr. Latta. No.

2698 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

2699 Mr. Griffith?

2700 [No response.]

2701 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

2702 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

2703 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

2704 Mr. Hudson?

2705 [No response.]

2706 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2707 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

2708 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

2709 Mr. Palmer?

2710 *Mr. Palmer. No.

2711 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

2712 Mr. Dunn?

2713 [No response.]

2714 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

2715 [No response.]

2716 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

2717 *Mr. Joyce. No.

2718 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

2719 Mr. Weber?

2720 *Mr. Weber. No.

2721 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

2722 Mr. Allen?

2723 *Mr. Allen. No.

2724 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

2725 Mr. Balderson?

2726 *Mr. Balderson. No.

2727 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
2728 Mr. Fulcher?
2729 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
2730 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
2731 Mr. Pfluger?
2732 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
2733 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
2734 Mrs. Harshbarger?
2735 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
2736 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
2737 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
2738 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
2739 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
2740 Mrs. Cammack?
2741 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
2742 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
2743 Mr. Obernolte?
2744 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
2745 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
2746 Mr. James?
2747 *Mr. James. No.
2748 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
2749 Mr. Bentz?
2750 *Mr. Bentz. No.
2751 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

2752 Mrs. Houchin?
2753 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
2754 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
2755 Mr. Fry?
2756 *Mr. Fry. No.
2757 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
2758 Ms. Lee?
2759 *Ms. Lee. No.
2760 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
2761 Mr. Langworthy?
2762 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
2763 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
2764 Mr. Kean?
2765 *Mr. Kean. No.
2766 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
2767 Mr. Rulli?
2768 *Mr. Rulli. No.
2769 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
2770 Mr. Evans?
2771 *Mr. Evans. No.
2772 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
2773 Mr. Goldman?
2774 *Mr. Goldman. No.
2775 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
2776 Mrs. Fedorchak?

2777 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
2778 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
2779 Mr. Pallone?
2780 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2781 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
2782 Ms. DeGette?
2783 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2784 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
2785 Ms. Schakowsky?
2786 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
2787 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
2788 Ms. Matsui?
2789 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2790 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2791 Ms. Castor?
2792 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
2793 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
2794 Mr. Tonko?
2795 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2796 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
2797 Ms. Clarke?
2798 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
2799 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
2800 *Dr. Ruiz. Aye.
2801 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

2802 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2803 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
2804 Mr. Peters?
2805 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2806 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2807 Mrs. Dingell?
2808 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2809 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2810 Mr. Veasey?
2811 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2812 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2813 Ms. Kelly?
2814 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2815 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
2816 Ms. Barragan?
2817 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2818 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
2819 Mr. Soto?
2820 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
2821 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2822 Ms. Schrier?
2823 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2824 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2825 Mrs. Trahan?
2826 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2827 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
2828 Mrs. Fletcher?
2829 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2830 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2831 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
2832 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
2833 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
2834 Mr. Auchincloss?
2835 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
2836 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
2837 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
2838 [No response.]
2839 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
2840 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
2841 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
2842 Mr. Mullin?
2843 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
2844 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
2845 Mr. Landsman?
2846 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
2847 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
2848 Ms. McClellan?
2849 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
2850 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
2851 Chairman Guthrie?

2852 *The Chair. No.

2853 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

2854 *The Chair. Mr. Hudson?

2855 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson is not recorded.

2856 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.

2857 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

2858 *The Chair. Is anyone else on the Republican side

2859 seeking to answer the role?

2860 Anyone on the Democrat side?

2861 The roll is -- so, seeing none, the clerk will report.

2862 *Voice. Oh, Mr. Carter.

2863 *The Chair. Oh, I am sorry. Mr. Carter, how is Mr.

2864 Carter recorded?

2865 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana --

2866 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Yes.

2867 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.

2868 *The Chair. The clerk will report the result.

2869 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 20 --

2870 excuse me, 24 ayes and 27 noes.

2871 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to.

2872 Are there further amendments to the bill?

2873 *Mr. Pallone. Landsman on our side.

2874 *The Chair. Mr. Landsman, you are recognized for -- Mr.

2875 Landsman, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

2876 *Mr. Landsman. I have an amendment at the desk.

2877 *The Chair. Identify the amendment.

2878 *Mr. Landsman. Zero seven one.

2879 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

2880 [Pause.]

2881 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
2882 a substitute to H.R. 7757 offered by Mr. --

2883 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
2884 amendment is dispensed with.

2885 [The amendment of Mr. Landsman follows:]

2886

2887 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2888

2889 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Ohio is -- almost
2890 Kentucky -- Ohio is recognized for five minutes in support of
2891 the amendment.

2892 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2893 Let me -- before I mention the amendment, I just want to
2894 thank all the parents for being here. This isn't easy. I
2895 can't possibly imagine the grief and pain that you are going
2896 through, and the amount of work that you put into it. And I
2897 wish we had a better outcome today. This amendment would get
2898 us to a better outcome, but I just want to say thank you for
2899 being here and for working on this.

2900 My wife, Sarah, and I have two kids. Our son, Elijah,
2901 is 14. Our daughter, Maddie, is 16. And a couple of weeks
2902 ago -- it was a Saturday or Sunday -- they were bored and
2903 they wanted to go to a place called Activate. And I didn't
2904 know what it was. I looked it up. It is this in-person sort
2905 of gaming facility, interactive technology. It was a little
2906 expensive, but it was 90 minutes and they really wanted to
2907 go, and they wanted their friends to go with them. And so I
2908 took a bunch of, you know, these 14, 15, 16-year-old kids to
2909 this place.

2910 And as you know, when you get to a place like this, you
2911 got a lot of paperwork to fill out. You know, they got to
2912 know everyone's age, a lot of forms. We filled out all the
2913 forms. If something bad were to happen, God forbid, I could

2914 sue Activate. Pretty straightforward. I didn't think twice
2915 about whether or not Ohio laws applied. I assume all the
2916 Ohio laws applied. And so I was just thinking about that in
2917 the context of this bill and wondering why we treat big tech
2918 different than we treat small businesses. Why would we treat
2919 big tech any differently than small businesses?

2920 So this amendment fixes the knowledge standard so that
2921 big tech has to actually have knowledge that there are young
2922 people, kids on their platforms. They can't deny it. It
2923 changes the duty of care so we can litigate, so parents can
2924 take big tech, these platforms, to court. That is it.

2925 Yes, the lawyers have been involved. The lawyers all
2926 around this country want to be able to help parents take
2927 these firms to court.

2928 And three, it deals with the issue of preemption so that
2929 state laws prevail, period. Not in some instances, but
2930 across the board.

2931 This amendment protects our kids, not big tech. So with
2932 that I encourage all my colleagues to support the amendment.

2933 I yield back.

2934 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
2935 recognizes the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Bilirakis --

2936 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you.

2937 *The Chair. -- for five minutes to speak on the
2938 amendment.

2939 *Mr. Bilirakis. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it very
2940 much. I seek recognition to speak in opposition to the
2941 amendment.

2942 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

2943 *Mr. Bilirakis. Okay. This amendment introduces a
2944 vague constructive knowledge standard that will act as a
2945 blank check for regulatory abuse by a future partisan FTC.
2946 And, you know, we see that -- we saw that in the last term.
2947 A constructive knowledge standard based on what a regulator
2948 thinks is fairly implied based on objective circumstances is
2949 an invitation to play gotcha with otherwise law-abiding
2950 companies.

2951 So the underlying bill already contains a strong
2952 enforceable standard. Platforms are liable if they have
2953 actual knowledge or if they willfully disregard that a user
2954 is a minor. So the underlying bill punishes bad actors who
2955 intentionally look away without opening the door to Federal
2956 overreach, in my opinion.

2957 This amendment also adds anti-preemption language that
2958 is directly from the Senate KOSA bill. The underlying
2959 preemption language already is -- and this is what it says --
2960 "conflicts with preemption," which means that the only laws
2961 that are state laws that -- in other words, if it is a state
2962 law that directly conflicts with the Federal law, then the --
2963 that particular law will be preempted. The underlying bill

2964 has the same preemption language that the minority insisted
2965 on during negotiations -- and I happen to agree with them --
2966 and now they are moving the goal posts.

2967 It is plain and simple. The Constitution provides that
2968 Federal laws can trump state laws, including laws that
2969 conflict with Federal law. And adopting this upends
2970 constitutional responsibilities. So it is pretty clear, Mr.
2971 Chairman.

2972 I yield back.

2973 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2974 further discussion on the amendment?

2975 The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for five
2976 minutes to speak on the amendment.

2977 *Mr. Menendez. I yield to my colleague from Ohio.

2978 You are good?

2979 *Mr. Landsman. I am good, yes, thank you.

2980 *The Chair. You are -- yes.

2981 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Rob.

2982 The whole thing comes down to whether or not you can sue
2983 these companies. I mean, there is only, you know, so much
2984 that, you know, policy can achieve. You know, obviously, as
2985 lawmakers, we hope that our policy is spot on, and it is
2986 foolproof, and it covers all eventualities. But that is not
2987 the way it works typically. You know, we get justice and
2988 things get fixed because people can take somebody to court.

2989 That is it.

2990 And there are two big groups in this country that have
2991 protections, that have these litigation shields, even though
2992 they have caused enormous damage to our children: big tech
2993 and gun manufacturers. Why can't I sue either one of them?
2994 I just don't understand. I really don't, other than the
2995 money.

2996 Anyway, I -- pass this amendment, help these families
2997 sue these big tech companies. That is going to lead to the
2998 change.

2999 *Mr. Auchincloss. Congressman?

3000 *Mr. Landsman. I don't know if I can yield. I am going
3001 to yield back to Mr. Menendez, and --

3002 *Mr. Auchincloss. Would you mind yielding for just --

3003 *Mr. Menendez. Yes, sir.

3004 *Mr. Auchincloss. I just want to add to the congressman
3005 from --

3006 *Mr. Landsman. Okay.

3007 *Mr. Auchincloss. -- Ohio's point about the two
3008 industries that can't be sued, just the third one, which is
3009 the drug pricing middlemen known as Pharmacy Benefit
3010 Managers.

3011 *Mr. Landsman. Okay.

3012 *Mr. Auchincloss. Three, three industries have come to
3013 Congress in the last 25 years and asked to be held harmless:

3014 gun manufacturers, social media corporations, and the big
3015 insurance corporations that rent-see off of high drug
3016 prices. If that is not a lesson for us in Congress, I don't
3017 know what it is. Maybe we should stop doing that and, when
3018 industries come to Congress and say, hey, we don't want to be
3019 sued, our answer shouldn't be sure, yes, how can we help; our
3020 answer should be, like, well, what are you doing that people
3021 keep on suing you so much, and maybe work on that for a
3022 while.

3023 I yield back.

3024 *Ms. McClellan. Actually --

3025 *Mr. Landsman. And I would -- oh, sorry.

3026 *The Chair. It is the gentleman from New Jersey's time,
3027 so do you yield to --

3028 *Mr. Menendez. I yield to my colleague from Virginia.

3029 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you. I just want to really
3030 quickly point out I think it is the height of insanity to say
3031 to companies that develop platforms and services and
3032 algorithms that are addictive to children, that are
3033 intentionally addictive to children, that there is evidence
3034 that they are addictive to children to now say that they
3035 should not be held to a standard that they should reasonably
3036 know that children will be addicted to the services and
3037 platforms and products that they intended for them to become
3038 addicted to, and will continue to use them, and therefore

3039 should be shielded with an actual knowledge standard. To me,
3040 that is the height of insanity.

3041 I yield back.

3042 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. And would the gentleman from New
3043 Jersey --

3044 [Laughter.]

3045 *Mr. Menendez. I yield to my colleague from New York.

3046 *The Chair. Oh, we just started over. I think there
3047 was two minutes left. We will give you two minutes left.
3048 So, yes, go ahead.

3049 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. I thank --

3050 *The Chair. No, you are recognized.

3051 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. I thank the gentleman from New
3052 Jersey. I am happy to yield back my time, as well.

3053 But, you know, I think this is a -- what is kind of
3054 being revealed here and what -- all the points that we are
3055 making here is that this is about how Congress and Congress's
3056 willingness to take on big industries and some of the biggest
3057 and most nefarious industries that have preyed on the
3058 American people.

3059 And everyday working families, they don't have big-money
3060 lobbyists, but big social media companies do, big tech does,
3061 big pharma does, big oil does, and big tobacco does. And big
3062 tobacco was one of the first mega-predatory industries that
3063 wrote the playbook on how to dupe Congress and to also

3064 perpetuate PR campaigns to actually trick the American
3065 people, as well.

3066 I mean, we all can remember times -- and it is in our
3067 history books -- that big tobacco had originally convinced
3068 the American people that they -- that smoking cigarettes was
3069 healthy for you. They suppressed science, they suppressed
3070 evidence, and then they lobbied Congress to prevent any sort
3071 of regulation. And millions of Americans were diagnosed with
3072 cancer and got sick, and we found out decades after the fact
3073 how dangerous this was.

3074 Big oil did the same thing when we found out that
3075 burning fossil fuels contributed to carbon emissions back in
3076 the 1970s. Exxon's internal scientists determined this, and
3077 then they set out to bury that science and evidence. We are
3078 seeing this with opioids and opioid manufacturers that preyed
3079 on the American people, understanding and knowing how
3080 addictive their substances was. And now we are seeing this
3081 with social media and big tech.

3082 We are seeing the crisis that is happening here with
3083 kids losing their lives and people using -- losing cognitive
3084 function, increasingly, in use of social media tools and
3085 other digital tools as well. So we have to stand up and say
3086 we see right through them, and that we are willing to stand
3087 up to big money behind this, as well.

3088 And I yield back.

3089 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman from New Jersey,
3090 you exhausted all your time, so the gentleman yields back.

3091 So thank you. Thank you.

3092 Is there any further discussion?

3093 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

3094 *The Chair. Seeing none, if there is no further
3095 discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment. A roll call
3096 has been requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

3097 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3098 [No response.]

3099 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

3100 [No response.]

3101 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

3102 [No response.]

3103 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

3104 [No response.]

3105 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3106 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

3107 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

3108 Mr. Palmer?

3109 [No response.]

3110 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

3111 [No response.]

3112 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

3113 [No response.]

3114

3115 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

3116 *Mr. Joyce. No.

3117 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

3118 Mr. Weber?

3119 *Mr. Weber. No.

3120 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

3121 Mr. Allen?

3122 *Mr. Allen. No.

3123 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

3124 Mr. Balderson?

3125 *Mr. Balderson. No.

3126 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

3127 Mr. Fulcher?

3128 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

3129 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

3130 Mr. Pfluger?

3131 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

3132 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

3133 Mrs. Harshbarger?

3134 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

3135 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

3136 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

3137 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.

3138 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.

3139 Mrs. Cammack?
3140 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
3141 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
3142 Mr. Obernolte?
3143 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
3144 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
3145 Mr. James?
3146 *Mr. James. No.
3147 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
3148 Mr. Bentz?
3149 *Mr. Bentz. No.
3150 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
3151 Mrs. Houchin?
3152 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
3153 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
3154 Mr. Fry?
3155 *Mr. Fry. No.
3156 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
3157 Ms. Lee?
3158 *Ms. Lee. No.
3159 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
3160 Mr. Langworthy?
3161 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
3162 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
3163 Mr. Kean?

3164 *Mr. Kean. No.

3165 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

3166 Mr. Rulli?

3167 [No response.]

3168 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?

3169 *Mr. Rulli. No.

3170 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

3171 Mr. Evans?

3172 [No response.]

3173 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

3174 *Mr. Goldman. No.

3175 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

3176 Mrs. Fedorchak?

3177 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

3178 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

3179 Mr. Pallone?

3180 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3181 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

3182 Ms. DeGette?

3183 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

3184 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

3185 Ms. Schakowsky?

3186 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3187 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3188 Ms. Matsui?

3189 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3190 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3191 Ms. Castor?
3192 *Ms. Castor. Yes.
3193 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3194 Mr. Tonko?
3195 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3196 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3197 Ms. Clarke?
3198 [No response.]
3199 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?
3200 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3201 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3202 Mr. Ruiz?
3203 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3204 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3205 Mr. Peters?
3206 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3207 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3208 Mrs. Dingell?
3209 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3210 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3211 Mr. Veasey?
3212 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3213 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

3214 Ms. Kelly?
3215 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3216 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.
3217 Ms. Barragan?
3218 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3219 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3220 Mr. Soto?
3221 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3222 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3223 Ms. Schrier?
3224 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3225 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3226 Mrs. Trahan?
3227 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3228 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3229 Mrs. Fletcher?
3230 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3231 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3232 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3233 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3234 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3235 Mr. Auchincloss?
3236 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3237 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3238 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

3239 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3240 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3241 Mr. Menendez?
3242 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3243 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3244 Mr. Mullin?
3245 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3246 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3247 Mr. Landsman?
3248 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3249 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
3250 Ms. McClellan?
3251 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
3252 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
3253 Chairman Guthrie?
3254 *The Chair. No.
3255 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
3256 *The Chair. Mr. Latta?
3257 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
3258 *Mr. Latta. No.
3259 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
3260 *The Chair. Mr. Hudson?
3261 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
3262 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3263 *The Chair. Mr. Palmer?

3264 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

3265 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.

3266 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

3267 *The Chair. Bilirakis?

3268 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.

3269 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis?

3270 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

3271 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

3272 *The Chair. Mr. Evans?

3273 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans is not recorded.

3274 *Mr. Evans. No.

3275 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.

3276 *The Chair. Your side, everybody good here? I want to

3277 give everybody a chance to vote. Is anyone seeking to answer

3278 the roll call?

3279 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

3280 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24

3281 ayes and 27 noes.

3282 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there

3283 further amendments?

3284 The gentleman from Florida, for what purpose do you seek

3285 recognition?

3286 *Mr. Soto. For an amendment.

3287 *The Chair. Identify your amendment.

3288 *Mr. Soto. KNOW_01_.

3289 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

3290 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
3291 a substitute to H.R. --

3292 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
3293 amendment is dispensed with.

3294 [The amendment of Mr. Soto follows:]

3295

3296 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3297

3298 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Florida is
3299 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

3300 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3301 We had a deal on the Safer Gaming Act in the
3302 subcommittee. I filed an amendment that was agreed to at the
3303 time. The Safer Gaming Act amendment created parental
3304 controls for the chat features on online interactive video
3305 games. Kids under 16 would be opted into the most protective
3306 level of communication safeguards by default. The default
3307 restrictive safeguards can only be changed by a parent. We
3308 see especially a lot of our boys and young men playing games
3309 -- and yes, some of the ladies, too -- and we know this is an
3310 area where they are vulnerable. And now that deal has been
3311 broken. In this current version that amendment was taken
3312 out.

3313 Just a little more background. Our amendment made
3314 improvements to the state preemption language in the original
3315 bill, with the intention to continue negotiations to further
3316 improve the language. The majority made the preemption
3317 language worse when they rolled Safer Gaming into the kids
3318 package. Our amendment strikes that state preemption
3319 language and replaces that standard with a standard that
3320 protects and sets it as a floor, rather than a ceiling.

3321 I do want to thank Mr. Kean for working with me in the
3322 subcommittee on this, and I am hoping we can keep the deal

3323 and pass this amendment.

3324 And I yield back.

3325 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
3326 from Florida is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
3327 amendment.

3328 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am speaking
3329 in opposition to this amendment, and I do want to thank my --
3330 the Floridians, man, we are all over the place.

3331 Representative Soto, I appreciate all the work that you
3332 and I do together. In fact, most of the work on this
3333 committee tends to be bipartisan, but I am absolutely struck
3334 by the fact that this amendment, the previous amendment, and
3335 subsequent amendments that are slated are, quite literally,
3336 identical. The language is identical, to the word. I just
3337 -- I have to point that out because we keep doing this round
3338 robin and, I mean, you can pull every single one of these
3339 amendments and there is not even a deviation of a single
3340 word. They all say the exact same thing.

3341 And again, I believe everyone on this dais -- everyone,
3342 Republicans and Democrats -- all are looking for the same
3343 thing. We want to empower parents. We want to keep kids
3344 safe. I am the new mom to a little girl who is six months
3345 old, and I am terrified for her future. I am terrified for
3346 what she is going to encounter. But going about it where
3347 special interests is trying to influence these outcomes is

3348 ridiculous.

3349 I can speak to the fact that Representative Trahan,
3350 Representative Soto, and I, we are squarely in the crosshairs
3351 of big tech because we are willing to take on that fight.

3352 This is such a personal issue to so many, including
3353 people in our audience. But who else is in the audience?
3354 Trial attorneys. You know who you are. You know who you are
3355 in this audience. Don't for one second think that you are
3356 not going to skate by without being pointed out that you make
3357 money off of these lawsuits, and that you didn't draft these
3358 amendments, and the talking points are quite literally what
3359 we are hearing from the other side. This should be about how
3360 do we advance this, how do we advance this to make this safe
3361 for kids and empower parents. All I am hearing is the same
3362 amendment over and over and over, which has been drafted by
3363 the trial attorneys, and it seems like it is just -- it is
3364 not productive.

3365 So I think, of course, we will see our colleagues
3366 continue to offer these. It is the same language over and
3367 over and over again, and it will have the same result. I
3368 personally would love for us to advance this bill so we can
3369 actually begin the hard work of protecting kids and
3370 empowering parents. And I love that the trial attorney --
3371 there are some trial attorneys that are shaking their heads.

3372 But with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield.

3373 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentlelady
3374 from California, Ms. Barragan, is recognized for five minutes
3375 to speak on the amendment.

3376 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just feel
3377 the need to respond to the attack on trial lawyers.

3378 I have to say I was never a trial lawyer. I couldn't
3379 afford it because I had too much debt when I came out of law
3380 school. But I see trial lawyers as those fighting for the
3381 little people, especially when Congress won't do its job to
3382 fight for the little people. So to come out here and attack
3383 trial lawyers, basically lawyers who are willing to represent
3384 parents and children against big corporations, is quite
3385 fascinating, but quite sad as well.

3386 Lawyers play a vital role in this country to fight for
3387 people. And many times it is the little person, the person
3388 who can't afford a lawyer. And so I don't know what the
3389 congresswoman's constituents do when they can't afford lawyer
3390 and some corporation has done some wrong. I have no idea who
3391 they go to, but those are plaintiff's trial lawyers. So I
3392 just find it quite disturbing that a Member of Congress would
3393 attack those that are fighting for the little people and
3394 those that are fighting in this instance today for parents
3395 and for kids.

3396 And with that --

3397 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentlelady yield?

3398 *Ms. Barragan. Yes.

3399 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you. I -- and in addition to my
3400 friend, the reason why you keep hearing the same language
3401 from us is because it is the law. It is the Supreme Court
3402 decisions. It is the way that law is interpreted.

3403 And what we are worried about is the language of this
3404 bill will allow these companies to circumvent the ability of,
3405 as Ms. Barragan says, of the little guy, of the parents of
3406 these kids to be able to file and pursue lawsuits. And, you
3407 know, sorry that we keep all talking about the law, but it is
3408 the law, and that is why we are talking about it.

3409 I yield back.

3410 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you.

3411 I yield back.

3412 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
3413 discussion on the Republican -- the gentlelady from Texas,
3414 Mrs. Fletcher, is recognized for five minutes.

3415 *Mrs. Fletcher. Great. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
3416 appreciate the comments from my fellow lawyers on the panel,
3417 and they stepped in to say some of the things that I wanted
3418 to say when I initially raised my hand.

3419 But I do think it is a point that we need to remember in
3420 this committee because, you know, Mrs. Cammack was asking the
3421 questions about, you know, why are the trial lawyers so
3422 involved, and I think it is really important for us to

3423 remember that in our system we can either regulate everything
3424 or we can regulate nothing and try everything and have
3425 liability in the courts. But we have a hybrid system where
3426 we try to regulate. But the message from the Republicans is
3427 we want fewer regulations, we don't want government
3428 regulating. So the lawyers step in to say these things are
3429 causing harm, right?

3430 Whether you are looking at train accidents 100 years ago
3431 -- we all had to read that case in law school, you know,
3432 people getting hit by trains, and on and on and on, to
3433 require safety. That is something we do on this committee:
3434 consumer protection, consumer product safety. So many of the
3435 things that we have learned are harmful to people in this
3436 country we have learned not because we have regulated it
3437 first, but because citizens have been injured, have been
3438 hurt, and lawyers have come along, and those cases get tried
3439 in court.

3440 And so we have this hybrid system. There are roles for
3441 regulation here. But what I hear over and over from the
3442 other side is less regulation. Okay. Well, then there
3443 should be more lawyers. Like, that is the answer to less
3444 regulation is we want to protect citizens, we want to protect
3445 consumers, we want to have some way to address the harms
3446 happening in this country. And so we do both, right?

3447 And the thing is, I totally agree with Congresswoman

3448 Barragan that, you know, what you see -- there are a bunch of
3449 different kinds of ways to practice law and to be a lawyer,
3450 but there are a lot of lawyers who raise their hands to help
3451 people who cannot afford to pay them, right, people who have
3452 been injured. But, you know, in my law firm where I used to
3453 work, the lawyers charge \$1,000 an hour. I don't know how
3454 ordinary people can pay for that when they have been harmed.
3455 And so you need to have people who are willing to take the
3456 risk and represent people for free, for years sometimes, at a
3457 time. And then eventually they do get paid, unless they
3458 don't win and then they often don't get paid anything.

3459 So as we are criticizing these people, we need to --
3460 well, I am not criticizing -- as criticisms are being lodged
3461 against the trial lawyers, I just think it is really
3462 important to understand the fundamental system that we are
3463 operating in and the important role of lawyers in our
3464 society.

3465 And look, I am on a roll, so I am just going to say
3466 this, too. We need lawyers now more than ever, because what
3467 we are seeing happening in this country every single day is
3468 an outright assault on the Constitution of the United States
3469 of America by the President of the United States and this
3470 cabinet that is acting lawlessly and without authority. We
3471 are about to go to the floor and vote on a war powers
3472 resolution. But every single day we see the President

3473 ignoring the Congress, the Administration ignoring the
3474 Congress, ignoring laws that have been set in place, and this
3475 Congress doing nothing about it. We are going to the floor
3476 to vote on showerheads and toilet capacity and all of these
3477 ridiculous rollbacks of appliance standards that come out of
3478 this committee instead of talking about the fact that agents
3479 of the United States Government acting at our -- in our names
3480 and with taxpayer dollars are killing American citizens in
3481 the streets.

3482 You are laughing. You are looking at me. You are
3483 smiling. You think it is ridiculous. People are being
3484 killed in the United States of America, and they are being
3485 killed by agents of our government. And we have not talked
3486 about it on the House floor. What is wrong with this
3487 Congress? Why doesn't anyone want to talk about that?

3488 There is an incredible amount of lawlessness that is
3489 happening right now. And Speaker Johnson says we are not
3490 going to require ICE to follow the Fourth Amendment to the
3491 United States Constitution. We are not going to require
3492 warrants to enter your home, to seize your car, right? This
3493 is the Constitution of the United States. This is the law,
3494 and it is being ignored by this Administration and by this
3495 Congress. And so we need lawyers today, now more than ever.

3496 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

3497 [Applause.]

3498 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
3499 recognizes Mr. Weber from Texas for five minutes to speak on
3500 the amendment.

3501 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3502 And to Lizzie Fletcher from Houston, I want to say thank
3503 you for being very, very passionate about this. Earth to
3504 Lizzie. Thank you for being very passionate about this. I
3505 have a son that is a plaintiff's attorney. We have one in
3506 the room here that I served with in the Texas House, Mr.
3507 Craig Eiland.

3508 Thank you for being here, Mr. Eiland.

3509 And I was concerned about this bill when we started
3510 because I didn't want to see it take cause of action away
3511 when we started, but they assured me it would not. And so
3512 you make a good case in some fashion, but I think you got a
3513 little broad there, lady. But listen, I appreciate your
3514 consideration and I appreciate your passion. And I want to
3515 just say that we do need to be able to have causes of action
3516 and -- people that are going to be hurt, this is what lawyers
3517 do. I have a son that is one, if I didn't mention that.
3518 Just kidding. Anyway, I appreciate you.

3519 And I yield back.

3520 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
3521 further discussion?

3522 Mr. Carter from Louisiana, you are recognized for five

3523 minutes.

3524 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3525 You know, I listened to my colleague from Florida
3526 demonize trial lawyers, demonize advocates, demonize people
3527 who step up and stand up to defend people against big tech,
3528 against big organizations and corporate entities who have
3529 unlimited resources. But somehow you find a way to demonize
3530 the defense, those who stand up to advocate for -- trial
3531 lawyers go to court to defend people's rights, to address the
3532 issues that they have been harmed by. What is wrong with
3533 that? Are you suggesting that somehow they should singularly
3534 go against big tech by themselves and be further harmed by
3535 the giants that seem to fuel your argument?

3536 To suggest that members on this side can't draft an
3537 amendment, that someone else has to do it for them, that is
3538 disrespectful, it is disingenuous, it is dangerous, it is
3539 reckless. It is an insult to the men and women sitting in
3540 this audience who are in pain, who are aggrieved because of
3541 their losses, and now you suggest that they should not have a
3542 lawyer to defend them. You suggest that somehow their
3543 concerns are not meritorious of proper counsel.

3544 Find another argument. Find another argument to support
3545 the reckless nature of the exclusions of solid solutions, the
3546 exclusions of the voices of the people that have been harmed.
3547 Let's not play politics with this. Let's not make this an

3548 argument against trial lawyers or this one or that one.
3549 Let's stay focused on what this is about. This is about our
3550 young people. This is about big tech who wants to take
3551 advantage of our young people. Let's not cloud the issue
3552 with arguments that have absolutely nothing to do with the
3553 subject matter at hand. Please, let's stay focused. Let's
3554 stay in check. Let's get our minds right on why we are here.

3555 Look at these people in the audience. Look at the pain
3556 on their faces. Let's come together as I believe, I really
3557 believe, both sides wants to do. But somewhere along the
3558 line you have lost your way, and now you attempt to defend
3559 that departure from truth and justice by trying to malign
3560 trial lawyers. Give me a break. People are smarter than
3561 this, and the public deserves better.

3562 I yield.

3563 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. If there is no
3564 further discussion -- oh, there is further discussion. The
3565 gentleman from New Jersey is recognized.

3566 *Mr. Kean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
3567 correct the record.

3568 The amendment that was offered by the gentleman from
3569 Florida does not actually reflect our bipartisan work on the
3570 Safer Gaming Act. In fact, it changes both the preemption
3571 and the knowledge standard. I continue being happy and
3572 willing to work with the gentleman from Florida on future

3573 amendments to this particular provision of the bill.

3574 Thank you again for -- I yield back.

3575 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. If there is no
3576 further -- there is further discussion. The gentlelady from
3577 Florida. Every Floridian is going to speak today, right?

3578 *Ms. Castor. Yes, because let's talk about --

3579 *The Chair. You are recognized.

3580 *Ms. Castor. Let's talk about the big picture here.

3581 How do we enforce meaningful laws right now?

3582 So we have known about the growing harm to kids for many
3583 years. We have had so many hearings. We have drafted
3584 legislation. The Congress has not enacted any of these laws.
3585 I mean, it was -- COPPA was adopted 25, 26 years ago, and we
3586 haven't really done much since then. So families can't count
3587 on the Congress, and it sounds like today that the House
3588 Republican leadership, they are not willing to get back to
3589 the bipartisan bills. But we are going to keep trying there.

3590 At the same time, you know, the Federal Trade Commission
3591 has important enforcement responsibilities, but they have
3592 been under attack. So the FTC enforcement of laws will be
3593 less dependable, so you won't be able to -- parents won't be
3594 able to depend on that. So they rely on state laws because,
3595 thankfully, many states have acted on age-appropriate design
3596 codes and going after privacy violations.

3597 But what you are going to do here is you are going to

3598 make it harder for states to take the lead. You are going to
3599 slam the courthouse door shut when they have certain state
3600 private rights of action in a lot of cases. So now you are
3601 going to defend slamming that door to the courthouse shut for
3602 families here, too, so there is not going to be any recourse
3603 anywhere. They can't rely on the Congress, you don't want
3604 the states to be able to do anything, you don't want the FTC
3605 to be able to do anything, you don't want them to be able to
3606 bring private rights of action.

3607 This is kind of what Ms. Ocasio-Cortez said at the very
3608 beginning, this is one of the most cynical ways that
3609 Washington operates; or what Mr. Auchincloss said, this is
3610 kind of the Meta markup. This is what they want. There are
3611 a lot of very important lawsuits going on right now by school
3612 districts, by states, not just families, and you are going to
3613 pull the rug out from under them, understanding the harm. So
3614 you give lip service, "We feel your pain, we feel your pain,
3615 we want to do something," and then you end the ability of
3616 anyone to seek justice in America.

3617 So I think this argument has kind of -- it shined a
3618 light on what this is all about here today. This is a
3619 protection of the social media platform's profits. You value
3620 the profits of those companies more than the recourse for
3621 families who are doing something to protect kids, their
3622 safety, and their privacy. That is -- you have made it plain

3623 now.

3624 I yield back my time.

3625 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
3626 further discussion?

3627 I will just recognize myself for five minutes on the
3628 amendment.

3629 Remember, the amendment that -- well, I probably -- I
3630 have already spoken on it, I am sorry. Would the gentleman
3631 from Georgia seek --

3632 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman, I will yield my time to you.

3633 *The Chair. The gentleman -- I am just going to do a
3634 30-second -- I just want to read.

3635 It says -- every preemption section in the entire bill,
3636 quote from the bill -- from the amendment, so -- I know we
3637 were talking on the bill earlier. "Nothing in subsection A
3638 may be construed to preempt the applicability of any law of
3639 state with respect to trespass, contract, tort, or product
3640 liability; any statutory law that creates a remedy or penalty
3641 for criminal conduct; or any law of general applicability of
3642 a state with respect to consumer protection.'"

3643 My state is involved in the Roblox lawsuit. I talked to
3644 our attorney general's -- or we talked to the attorney
3645 general's office today -- I didn't personally, I will correct
3646 that -- and they said this does not enhance -- inhibit them
3647 from going forward.

3648 So I will yield back. Is there further discussion? Or
3649 the gentleman from Ohio yields back?

3650 *Mr. Latta. I will yield back.

3651 *The Chair. Is there any further discussion?

3652 Seeing none, the -- if there is no further discussion,
3653 the vote occurs on the amendment in the nature -- well, no,
3654 the vote occurs on the amendment. A roll call has been
3655 requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

3656 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3657 *Mr. Latta. No.

3658 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

3659 Mr. Griffith?

3660 [No response.]

3661 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

3662 *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes no.

3663 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

3664 Mr. Hudson?

3665 *Mr. Hudson. No.

3666 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

3667 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3668 [No response.]

3669 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

3670 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.

3671 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

3672 Mr. Dunn?

3673 [No response.]

3674 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

3675 [No response.]

3676 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

3677 *Mr. Joyce. No.

3678 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

3679 Mr. Weber?

3680 *Mr. Weber. No.

3681 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

3682 Mr. Allen?

3683 *Mr. Allen. No.

3684 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

3685 Mr. Balderson?

3686 *Mr. Balderson. No.

3687 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

3688 Mr. Fulcher?

3689 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

3690 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

3691 Mr. Pfluger?

3692 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

3693 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

3694 Mrs. Harshbarger?

3695 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.

3696 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.

3697 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

3698 [No response.]

3699 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

3700 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

3701 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

3702 Mr. Obernolte?

3703 [No response.]

3704 *The Clerk. Mr. James?

3705 *Mr. James. No.

3706 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.

3707 Mr. Bentz?

3708 *Mr. Bentz. No.

3709 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.

3710 Mrs. Houchin?

3711 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

3712 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

3713 Mr. Fry?

3714 *Mr. Fry. No.

3715 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

3716 Ms. Lee?

3717 *Ms. Lee. No.

3718 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

3719 Mr. Langworthy?

3720 *Mr. Langworthy. No.

3721 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

3722 Mr. Kean?

3723 *Mr. Kean. No.

3724 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

3725 Mr. Rulli?

3726 *Mr. Rulli. No.

3727 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.

3728 Mr. Evans?

3729 [No response.]

3730 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

3731 *Mr. Goldman. No.

3732 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

3733 Mrs. Fedorchak?

3734 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

3735 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

3736 Mr. Pallone?

3737 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3738 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

3739 Ms. DeGette?

3740 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

3741 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

3742 Ms. Schakowsky?

3743 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3744 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3745 Ms. Matsui?

3746 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3747 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

3748 Ms. Castor?

3749 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3750 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

3751 Mr. Tonko?

3752 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

3753 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

3754 Ms. Clarke?

3755 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

3756 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

3757 Mr. Ruiz?

3758 [No response.]

3759 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?

3760 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

3761 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

3762 Mrs. Dingell?

3763 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

3764 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

3765 Mr. Veasey?

3766 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

3767 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

3768 Ms. Kelly?

3769 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

3770 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

3771 Ms. Barragan?

3772 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

3773 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3774 Mr. Soto?
3775 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3776 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3777 Ms. Schrier?
3778 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3779 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3780 Mrs. Trahan?
3781 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3782 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3783 Mrs. Fletcher?
3784 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3785 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3786 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3787 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3788 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3789 Mr. Auchincloss?
3790 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3791 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3792 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3793 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3794 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3795 Mr. Menendez?
3796 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3797 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

3798 Mr. Mullin?

3799 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

3800 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

3801 Mr. Landsman?

3802 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

3803 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

3804 Ms. McClellan?

3805 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

3806 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

3807 Chairman Guthrie?

3808 *The Chair. No.

3809 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.

3810 *The Chair. Is anybody -- Obernolte? Who is first?

3811 Well, I want to -- so Mr. -- how is Mr. Carter recorded?

3812 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

3813 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Carter votes no.

3814 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter --

3815 *The Chair. Before I call on the next one --

3816 *The Clerk. -- votes no.

3817 *The Chair. Votes no.

3818 Mr. Dunn is here. I think some of us have heard that he

3819 was really, really sick the last few days. I actually got a

3820 phone call wondering if he was still here, and we were

3821 pleased to say that he has got the treatment that he needs,

3822 and we expect to see him for the rest of the year. So thank

3823 -- welcome back.

3824 [Applause.]

3825 *Dr. Dunn. You are very kind, Mr. Chairman.

3826 *Mr. Weber. This is a done deal.

3827 *The Chair. This is a done -- and I just want to -- I

3828 don't want to cause any conspiracy, but you are not your

3829 brother, correct?

3830 *Dr. Dunn. I am fine.

3831 *The Chair. He has an identical brother that I met one

3832 time --

3833 *Dr. Dunn. And I vote no.

3834 *The Chair. How is Mr. Dunn recorded?

3835 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

3836 *Dr. Dunn. No.

3837 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

3838 *The Chair. Thank you. Great to be -- have you back.

3839 Is anybody on --

3840 *Mr. Pallone. Ruiz, too.

3841 *The Chair. Mr. Obernolte?

3842 Okay.

3843 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte is not recorded.

3844 *Mr. Obernolte. Obernolte, no.

3845 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

3846 *The Chair. Anyone else on the -- Mr. Ruiz, Dr. Ruiz,

3847 how is he recorded?

3848 *The Clerk. Dr. Ruiz is not recorded.

3849 *Dr. Ruiz. Yes.

3850 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

3851 *The Chair. What is the number? The clerk will report.

3852 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24

3853 ayes and 26 noes.

3854 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there

3855 further amendments?

3856 The gentlelady from California, for what purpose do you

3857 seek recognition?

3858 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the

3859 desk.

3860 *The Chair. Identify your amendment.

3861 *Ms. Matsui. MATSUI_041.

3862 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

3863 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of

3864 a substitute to H.R. 7757 offered by Ms. Matsui of

3865 California. Page 5, beginning on line 7, strike 2, "Have

3866 acted in willful disregard,'" and insert --

3867 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading -- I lost my

3868 -- oh, here it is. Excuse me.

3869 [Laughter.]

3870 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

3871 amendment is disposed with.

3872

3873 [The amendment of Ms. Matsui follows:]

3874

3875 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3876

3877 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from California is
3878 recognized for five minutes in support of her amendment.

3879 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

3880 But first of all, I want to thank the parents for being
3881 here on behalf of their children and the children of others,
3882 too, who have been hurt. And I just want you to know that
3883 the reason why we want to improve this bill is for all of
3884 you. We keep you at the very center because you are here.
3885 We see you, and we know what you are going through, and we
3886 want to make sure that others do not have to go through what
3887 you have been through. So thank you very much for being
3888 patient and being here. Thank you.

3889 This amendment does two common-sense things to
3890 strengthen the KIDS Act. First, it fixes the bill's weak
3891 knowledge standard so companies can't dodge responsibility by
3892 claiming they didn't know the user was a child. Second, it
3893 fixes the safe bots preemption language to clearly set a
3894 Federal floor, not a ceiling, especially as AI companion chat
3895 boxes become more commonplace.

3896 Let me be blunt. Instead of doing the hard work to
3897 reach real bipartisan agreement, Republicans keep rushing
3898 weak standards and broad preemption through committees, and
3899 kids are the ones who pay the price.

3900 Let's start with the knowledge standard. The bill
3901 currently tells companies, do the bare minimum on kids

3902 safety, profit from hooking kids on your app, and when harm
3903 occurs just say you didn't know you were dealing with a
3904 child. As written, the bill would make it nearly impossible
3905 for parents and kids to hold the company accountable.
3906 Instead of asking what the company reasonably should have
3907 known, the law would force families to prove what the company
3908 actually knew, using confusing and slippery standards. And
3909 the army of lawyers employed by corporations will do
3910 everything they can to exploit that loophole to avoid
3911 accountability.

3912 Platforms can't have it both ways. They collect
3913 mountains of data to predict what you will watch next and how
3914 to keep you on the app longer. That same data gives them
3915 clear signals about age. If they are using data to make
3916 money off young users, they should also be required to use it
3917 to create meaningful protections for young users. My
3918 amendment strengthens this bill by moving us away from
3919 loopholes and toward real, enforceable protections for
3920 children.

3921 Now let me turn to safe bots and preemption. If we are
3922 serious about protecting kids online, we can't tie the hands
3923 of states and local communities. Our Federal system is
3924 designed so states can serve as laboratories of democracy,
3925 especially when new risks emerge faster than Congress can
3926 act. And nothing is moving faster right now than AI. We are

3927 entering a new era of AI companion chatbots that kids can
3928 access in seconds, often with few safeguards.

3929 States like California are already doing more than safe
3930 bots. California's SB 243 covers the same ground, and goes
3931 further with a private right of action so families aren't
3932 left powerless. As written, safe bots would preempt states
3933 -- block these and future stronger protections for kids.
3934 My amendment makes it clear this should be the Federal floor
3935 for safety. States should be free to do more when emerging
3936 harms show up in their communities and corporations fail to
3937 act responsibly. Right now in California, landmark cases
3938 could finally reveal what these companies knew about the
3939 damage their platforms were doing to kids. How, instead of
3940 fixing it, they doubled down on designs that keep kids
3941 scrolling and coming back for more. We shouldn't hand out
3942 the biggest tech platforms a get-out-of-jail-free card right
3943 as accountability is finally coming into view.

3944 We need to be honest about what the future looks like.
3945 The harms keep evolving. Just look at AI toys embedded with
3946 companion chatbots being marketed to children with little to
3947 no safeguards. Congress has been far too slow to respond to
3948 kids' safety in the social media era. Now we are entering a
3949 new era with AI layered on top of it. That is why broad
3950 preemption is so dangerous. If we block states from acting,
3951 who knows how long it will take Congress to catch up to the

3952 next wave of harms?

3953 So I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment. Let's
3954 pass stronger protections for kids, not weaker accountability
3955 for big tech. Let's set a Federal floor, not a Federal
3956 ceiling. And let's keep states in the fight for kids.

3957 With that I yield back.

3958 *Mr. Latta. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields back the
3959 balance of her time. Is there further discussion?

3960 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Tennessee's
3961 1st district seek recognition?

3962 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
3963 seek recognition to speak in opposition to the amendment.

3964 *Mr. Latta. The --

3965 *Mrs. Harshbarger. This amendment --

3966 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
3967 minutes to speak --

3968 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Thank you.

3969 *Mr. Latta. -- in opposition to the amendment.

3970 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Thank you, sir.

3971 This amendment does exactly the same thing that Mr.
3972 Landsman's amendment does, but in a different section.

3973 And, you know, the underlying bill already contains a
3974 strong enforceable standard. And again, it is the same
3975 preemption language that the minority agreed to in the past.

3976 But why don't we talk about the policy in the KIDS Act?

3977 Should kids be misguided, thinking that the chatbot they are
3978 talking to is a real person? Should they? No.

3979 How about if a 12-year-old is able to receive a private
3980 message from a stranger? Is that okay? No, it is not okay.

3981 Should big tech be conducting market research on sixth
3982 graders? No.

3983 And again and again, it is because the trial lawyer
3984 association opposes the bill.

3985 To be clear, the preemption standards in place are even
3986 weaker than those for motor vehicle ads. When you are going
3987 down the highway, there is no lack of signs for trial lawyers
3988 on the side of the highway. Have you been in an accident?
3989 We have all seen them. You know, it is ridiculous that the
3990 colleagues on the other side are voting against this package.
3991 They are pretending it is for parents. But really, it is
3992 because they want to delay any legislation that goes against
3993 big tech at the expense of your and my children. It is not
3994 right.

3995 And if you go back to Chairman Guthrie's amendment, all
3996 of the product liability and tort lawsuits will still be
3997 considered in court.

3998 So with that I vote -- I am going to be voting no on the
3999 amendment, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

4000 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4001 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

4002 further discussion?

4003 For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek
4004 recognition?

4005 *Mr. Menendez. To speak on the amendment.

4006 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized for five
4007 minutes to speak on the amendment.

4008 *Mr. Menendez. I think it is absurd to say that our
4009 opposition to this package is because we want to delay any
4010 legislation that takes on big tech. If you want to take on
4011 big tech? Do more than what is in this proposed bill. Stand
4012 taller, fight harder for families. Have a duty of care
4013 standard. Don't weaken it. You say you want to fight.
4014 Fight harder. Fight harder for these families right here.
4015 They are looking at you. They have been here all day. Don't
4016 tell us we don't want to take on big tech.

4017 I won't be lectured by a Republican majority when the
4018 one big, beautiful bill wanted to have a 10-year moratorium
4019 on AI state legislation without doing anything here at the
4020 Federal level. Don't lecture us that we don't want to take
4021 on big tech. It is absurd. We are here, we are ready. Look
4022 at what our colleagues have said the entire hearing. We are
4023 ready to do the work. We will join you hand in hand on
4024 meaningful, real legislation that we have been able to do on
4025 a bipartisan basis previously. So we are here, and we have
4026 shown time and time again we will operate in good faith. We

4027 tried on this bill. We have tried on other bills. But you,
4028 you walk away from that bipartisanship to push this forward,
4029 and there is no way to say that the things that we support
4030 wouldn't be a harder sell to big tech, it wouldn't go harder
4031 against big tech. That is what we want to do.

4032 We are on the side of the American people. You guys are
4033 on the side of corporate interests.

4034 I yield back.

4035 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman yields back the balance of
4036 his time. Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

4037 The gentleman from -- for what purpose does the
4038 gentleman from New York seek recognition?

4039 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

4040 *Mr. Latta. The gentleman is recognized to strike the
4041 last word for five minutes.

4042 *Mr. Tonko. Like my colleagues before me, I want to
4043 acknowledge the families here today and those that have come
4044 to my office to share their stories. Your pain and loss are
4045 impossible to ever fully comprehend, and your tragic
4046 experience should compel us to promote the strongest effort
4047 that we can, and that being the bipartisan bill mentioned
4048 earlier here today done in a previous time in this committee.
4049 That would be showing the fullest respect and fullest
4050 response to this issue. And I apologize that we are failing
4051 you, that the burden to advocate year after year has fallen

4052 to you.

4053 But I oppose this measure as it is currently presented,
4054 and primarily because of concerns of preemption and duty of
4055 care. The risk of social media continues to grow more urgent
4056 by the day, but we have failed to meet the moment. In fact,
4057 it has done the opposite. Instead of leading, this
4058 Administration and my Republican colleagues are bowing to
4059 pleas of big tech to enact weak policy that will preempt
4060 stronger state efforts.

4061 In my home state of New York lawmakers have introduced
4062 and passed bills that recognize the urgent threat of
4063 unregulated social media. These actions include taking on
4064 companies that are designing for addiction, that are
4065 collecting and selling data of children and adults. And
4066 state action is not a roadblock to progress; it is actually
4067 the driver of progress. That is how we got clean air laws
4068 and privacy protection and civil rights. So strong
4069 regulation is not about stifling competition; it is about
4070 safeguarding communities from harms that the families in the
4071 audience today have shared over and over and over during the
4072 past few years.

4073 The time has come to do the most appropriate moral
4074 response, and that is to get that bipartisan bill back into
4075 this committee.

4076 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

4077 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentleman yields
4078 back the balance of his time. For what purpose does the
4079 gentlelady from Iowa's 1st district seek recognition?

4080 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I would like to speak on the
4081 amendment.

4082 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
4083 minutes to speak to the amendment.

4084 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

4085 I think it is interesting as we go through this and we
4086 look at all of the bills that are compiled today in the KIDS
4087 Act, and we look at the faces here at this hearing, that we
4088 are going to have had four years of -- our colleagues on the
4089 other side of the aisle could have advanced legislation to
4090 their liking, but yet nothing has been done. And we have
4091 continued to see through COVID children suffering, children
4092 being preyed upon on social media. It is why it was so
4093 important for me, even though I don't have young kids at home
4094 but have family members with young children, seeing them go
4095 through this, trying to protect their children against the
4096 behemoths, that I introduced, the SPY Kids Act.

4097 Protecting children and teens online is one of the most
4098 urgent responsibilities we face as policy-makers. Parents
4099 can't do this alone. You can't. No matter how involved you
4100 are, or no matter how attentive you are, you cannot do it
4101 alone. As digital platforms become central to how young

4102 people learn, communicate, and navigate the world -- and most
4103 importantly, they trust them -- we must ensure that these
4104 spaces are safe, transparent, and designed with their well-
4105 being, not corporate profit, as the driving priority.

4106 My bill, the SPY Kids Act, included in title 2 of the
4107 KIDS Act, takes an important step toward that goal by
4108 prohibiting online platforms from conducting market or
4109 focused -- product-focused research on children under 13, and
4110 by requiring verifiable parental consent before such research
4111 can be conducted on teenagers. This bill applies to user-
4112 generated content platforms that use engagement-driven design
4113 features and personal data to tailor ads or recommendations
4114 such as social media companies and social gaming platforms.

4115 Prior to coming to Congress I saw Members of Congress
4116 debate more on colored cereal and the effect on children than
4117 the effect of social media which may end a child's life.
4118 Colored and flavored cereal never caused a child to commit
4119 suicide. By limiting how platforms can analyze and monetize
4120 minors' data, the SPY Kids Act helps reduce the risk of
4121 manipulative marketing practices, strengthens privacy
4122 protections, and reinforces the principle that the well-being
4123 of America's youth must come before the business models of
4124 technology companies.

4125 Our goal is simple, to build an online ecosystem where
4126 children can grow, learn, and connect without being exploited

4127 in the process.

4128 With that, Mr. Chair, I yield.

4129 *Mr. Latta. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.

4130 For what purpose does the gentlelady from California seek
4131 recognition?

4132 *Ms. Barragan. I move to strike the last word.

4133 *Mr. Latta. The gentlelady is recognized for five
4134 minutes to strike the last word.

4135 *Ms. Barragan. I just have to keep correcting the
4136 record when my colleagues across the aisle misguide and
4137 provide misinformation. Democrats did work in a bipartisan
4138 manner in 2024 on a package -- on a kids online safety bill,
4139 and the Senate passed it overwhelmingly 91 to 3. So to
4140 suggest that we have not discussed this issue and nothing has
4141 been done in four years is not true. And this committee
4142 again voted by voice vote to pass that legislation.

4143 One of the problems with this package is it adds in all
4144 these other things, maybe to get the votes from Republicans
4145 who maybe would not vote for it, I don't know. And some of
4146 those bills are probably good bills, but when you package
4147 those with a bill that was bipartisan that has been gutted,
4148 that takes away protections for parents and kids, we can't
4149 support it.

4150 So I would just recommend that you take out those bills
4151 and we vote on those bills separately and go back to the

4152 drawing board on the kids online safety bill.

4153 With that I yield back.

4154 *Mr. Latta. Thank you very much. The gentlelady yields
4155 back. Is there further discussion on the amendment?

4156 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

4157 *Mr. Latta. The -- a roll call is asked, and the clerk
4158 will call -- take the roll, please.

4159 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4160 *Mr. Latta. No.

4161 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

4162 Mr. Griffith?

4163 [No response.]

4164 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

4165 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

4166 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

4167 Mr. Hudson?

4168 *Mr. Hudson. No.

4169 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

4170 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

4171 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

4172 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

4173 Mr. Palmer?

4174 *Mr. Palmer. No.

4175 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

4176 Mr. Dunn?

4177 *Dr. Dunn. No.
4178 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
4179 Mr. Crenshaw?
4180 [No response.]
4181 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
4182 *Mr. Joyce. No.
4183 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
4184 Mr. Weber?
4185 *Mr. Weber. No.
4186 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
4187 Mr. Allen?
4188 *Mr. Allen. No.
4189 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
4190 Mr. Balderson?
4191 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4192 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
4193 Mr. Fulcher?
4194 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
4195 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
4196 Mr. Pfluger?
4197 [No response.]
4198 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
4199 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4200 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4201 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

4202 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
4203 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
4204 Mrs. Cammack?
4205 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
4206 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
4207 Mr. Obernolte?
4208 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
4209 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
4210 Mr. James?
4211 [No response.]
4212 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
4213 *Mr. Bentz. No.
4214 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4215 Mrs. Houchin?
4216 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
4217 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
4218 Mr. Fry?
4219 *Mr. Fry. No.
4220 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
4221 Ms. Lee?
4222 *Ms. Lee. No.
4223 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
4224 Mr. Langworthy?
4225 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
4226 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.

4227 Mr. Kean?
4228 *Mr. Kean. No.
4229 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
4230 Mr. Rulli?
4231 *Mr. Rulli. No.
4232 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
4233 Mr. Evans?
4234 *Mr. Evans. No.
4235 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
4236 Mr. Goldman?
4237 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4238 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4239 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4240 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4241 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
4242 Mr. Pallone?
4243 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4244 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4245 Ms. DeGette?
4246 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4247 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4248 Ms. Schakowsky?
4249 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4250 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4251 Ms. Matsui?

4252 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4253 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4254 Ms. Castor?
4255 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4256 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4257 Mr. Tonko?
4258 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4259 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4260 Ms. Clarke?
4261 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
4262 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4263 Mr. Ruiz?
4264 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4265 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4266 Mr. Peters?
4267 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4268 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4269 Mrs. Dingell?
4270 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4271 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4272 Mr. Veasey?
4273 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4274 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4275 Ms. Kelly?
4276 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

4277
4278 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4279 Ms. Barragan?
4280 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4281 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4282 Mr. Soto?
4283 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4284 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4285 Ms. Schrier?
4286 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4287 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4288 Mrs. Trahan?
4289 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4290 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4291 Mrs. Fletcher?
4292 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4293 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4294 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4295 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
4296 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
4297 Mr. Auchincloss?
4298 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4299 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4300 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4301 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

4302 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4303 Mr. Menendez?
4304 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4305 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4306 Mr. Mullin?
4307 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4308 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4309 Mr. Landsman?
4310 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4311 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4312 Ms. McClellan?
4313 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4314 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4315 Chairman Guthrie?
4316 *The Chair. [Presiding.] No.
4317 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
4318 *The Chair. Mr. James?
4319 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.
4320 *Mr. James. James, no.
4321 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
4322 *The Chair. Mr. Pfluger?
4323 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
4324 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
4325 *The Chair. Seeing none, the clerk will report.
4326 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 24

4327 ayes and 28 noes.

4328 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
4329 -- is there further amendments?

4330 Mr. Mullin, from -- for what purpose does the gentleman
4331 from California seek recognition?

4332 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have an amendment
4333 at the desk titled MULLCA_062.

4334 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

4335 *Mr. Mullin. And I move to strike the last word.

4336 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

4337 [Pause.]

4338 *The Chair. I guess we inquire, do we have a copy of
4339 the amendment at the desk?

4340 *Voice. I don't have it either.

4341 *The Chair. We will get your amendment. We will get to
4342 it.

4343 [Pause.]

4344 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
4345 a substitute to H.R. 7757 offered --

4346 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
4347 amendment is dispensed with.

4348 [The amendment of Mr. Mullin follows:]

4349

4350 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4351

4352 *The Chair. And the gentleman from California is
4353 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

4354 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4355 I am the dad of twin eight-year-old boys, and I am truly
4356 worried about the world that awaits them on the internet.
4357 From addictive social media and exploitative advertising to
4358 body image issues, depression, and the ease with which
4359 dangerous interactions can occur, I am candidly dreading the
4360 day that they come asking for a smartphone. All of us as
4361 parents want the best for our kids. I know I am willing to
4362 do everything in my power to protect them, and I know that
4363 instinct is driving every one of us here.

4364 At the same time, not all kids are the same and not
4365 every household is the same. While some parents want to be
4366 able to monitor every interaction of their child, that is
4367 simply not realistic for the vast majority of us who are
4368 working. We have to provide a safe environment for them, but
4369 we also can't reorder the world based on our own personal
4370 viewpoints or family dynamics.

4371 I worry about the young person who needs to get
4372 confidential information about reproductive health care. I
4373 worry about the kid whose parent is abusing them and they
4374 need help. I worry about the kid who is figuring out their
4375 LGBTQ identity and is looking for support from peers or
4376 trusted sources. And as someone who cares deeply about civic

4377 engagement and instilling a love for this country and our
4378 democracy at an early age, I also worry about preventing kids
4379 from getting basic information about the world around them.

4380 Technology can be a powerful tool. Like any tool,
4381 though, it has inappropriate uses. I think all of us on this
4382 committee are in broad agreement that the status quo is
4383 unacceptable. I am just worried about the negative byproduct
4384 of solutions that go too far in the name of protecting kids.
4385 That is why I am offering this amendment to the Safe
4386 Messaging for Kids Act portion of H.R. 7757, which would
4387 require the platforms with messaging tools give kids the
4388 ability to protect themselves from harm while giving parents
4389 the ability to review their child's protection settings. It
4390 would not go as far as the underlying bill does in banning
4391 certain types of messaging apps or requiring parents to, by
4392 default, approve or deny a child's every interaction or
4393 review the identity of their contacts.

4394 My approach would provide parental choice. It would
4395 still require a layer of protection for kids, empowering them
4396 with a range of safety features while enabling parents who
4397 wish to provide more oversight of their child's use of social
4398 media and messaging apps to do so. With my amendment we are
4399 not letting tech companies off the hook. Quite the contrary.
4400 But we are also acknowledging that one size does not fit all
4401 when it comes to parenting. I have concerns about overreach

4402 with any proposed solution when we are talking about mandates
4403 for the entire country. I offer my amendment to strike what
4404 I believe is a more balanced approach.

4405 Thank you to everyone who has been working on these
4406 important issues. I hope there are going to be more
4407 bipartisan work on this in the future, rather than the
4408 partisan bills that have been put forward today.

4409 And with that I yield back.

4410 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
4411 recognizes the gentlelady from North Dakota, Mrs. Fedorchak,
4412 to speak on the amendment.

4413 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Mr. Chairman, thank you. I seek to
4414 strike the last word.

4415 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized to speak on
4416 the amendment.

4417 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Mr. Chairman, members of the
4418 committee, you heard Mr. Mullin say it himself. This
4419 amendment does not go as far as the bill that we are
4420 proposing. In other words, it weakens it, provides less
4421 protection for kids and parents.

4422 This amendment guts the Safe Messaging for Kids Act by
4423 removing the bans of disappearing messages for minors and
4424 direct messaging for children, and removes the parental
4425 consent for teens to engage in direct messaging. The only
4426 thing a parent can do under this amendment is view the direct

4427 messaging controls.

4428 Supporting this amendment means that it will make it
4429 easier for drug dealers anonymously -- to anonymously sell
4430 fentanyl to kids on Snapchat. It will make it easier for
4431 child predators to send direct messages to children, and it
4432 will make it easier for 14-year-olds to address -- direct
4433 message strangers in the next town. Removing the ban on
4434 disappearing messages will also hinder law enforcement's
4435 ability to crack down on drug dealers and criminals to gather
4436 evidence of crimes.

4437 This is an outrageous amendment that puts our kids at
4438 risk, hinders law enforcement, and, like many of the
4439 amendments offered today, shows the complete distrust the
4440 minority has in America's parents. I urge my colleagues to
4441 reject this harmful amendment and vote yes on the underlying
4442 bill.

4443 I yield back.

4444 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
4445 further discussion on the amendment?

4446 I will recognize myself for five minutes to discuss on
4447 the amendment.

4448 I said we were going to have the opportunity to vote
4449 today and go on record of who is here to protect giving
4450 parents their responsibility and given the authority over
4451 their children. This is one of those moments. We are going

4452 to have the chance to divide ourselves and say who is for it.

4453 And, you know, it has been mentioned, one, that either
4454 Congress acts, or the regulatory side acts, or you go to
4455 court and act. And, you know, Congress has the Article I
4456 responsibility. And we talk a lot about it right here, and
4457 this is an opportunity to do that.

4458 So Congress in this bill is defining the action that we
4459 want taken, or we could give a nebulous standard and send it
4460 to the FTC and let them define what it is. And then 20, 30
4461 years, or 5 years down the road, when it has nothing to do
4462 with this, use that kind of, oh, we have this vague language,
4463 we can do something else. And we all are concerned about
4464 that as legislators, when we are not specific enough in how
4465 we address things.

4466 Or the other one is that we just kind of blow this up
4467 and do nothing, and just let the courts handle it, which is
4468 not -- which is abdicating our responsibility. So I want to
4469 make sure that we know that Congress has to act. This is an
4470 act. And also, I just want to say we are going to have
4471 different amendments today, and this gives an opportunity to
4472 show whose sides people are on.

4473 And I will yield back. Is there a further discussion on
4474 the amendment?

4475 The gentlelady from -- seeing none on the Democrat side,
4476 the gentlelady from Iowa is recognized for five minutes.

4477 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

4478 I remember sitting here in this committee room when we
4479 had parents discussing with us their teenagers purchasing
4480 online through Snapchat drugs that were laced with fentanyl.
4481 One drug, one pill that led to their death. That -- those
4482 emotionally riveting messages from parents begging us to do
4483 something, and how law enforcement could not do anything
4484 because the message was disappeared.

4485 In my day, if you wanted to get an illegal drug you
4486 actually had to go to the bad part of town. There was a
4487 little shaming. It was risky. You were personally at risk
4488 by doing so. That is not today's world. To think that we
4489 would weaken a bill that would ban disappearing messages or
4490 that would allow direct messages to young teenagers, knowing
4491 that they can get parental consent -- allow the parents to
4492 give that authority to those children if they so choose.

4493 I left home at 16, the fourth of 8 kids, started working
4494 and going to community college. A high level of
4495 responsibility. I realize not all kids are the same and
4496 can't do that. That is why you respect parental rights and
4497 give them the authority and responsibility for their own
4498 children.

4499 I strongly encourage people to vote against this ill-
4500 considered amendment.

4501 I yield back.

4502 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
4503 further discussion on the amendment?

4504 The gentlelady from Indiana is recognized for five
4505 minutes to speak on the amendment.

4506 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in strong
4507 opposition to this amendment for reasons that I have already
4508 stated today. But we ought to have safer protections. We
4509 should not have disappearing messages available through
4510 Snapchat or other means for our kids, and this amendment
4511 would strip that out of this bill.

4512 I hope that I have colleagues on the other side of the
4513 aisle who would vote against this because it is just
4514 incredibly misguided on its face.

4515 Even if I don't allow my child to have one of these,
4516 they can still have access to these apps on their friends'
4517 phones, on other devices that they can get access to, which
4518 puts parents in a position in America today where they cannot
4519 protect their own children. It is unbelievable to me that
4520 tech companies would have that much authority over our kids.

4521 And for people out there that say it should be parents'
4522 responsibilities, it is. But we are outmatched because the
4523 tech availability today has reached into our homes and into
4524 our kids' bedrooms, you know, and they have got the door
4525 locked, and there is nothing that we can do unless we pass
4526 some of these very -- should be common-sense and bipartisan

4527 bills.

4528 I am strongly opposed to this amendment, and I hope that
4529 not just the Republicans on the committee but the Democrats
4530 on the committee will also vote no in recognition that
4531 children under the age of 16, 17 should not have access to
4532 these apps and platforms without any parental involvement.

4533 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4534 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
4535 further discussion on the amendment?

4536 Seeing no further discussion, the vote occurs on the
4537 amendment. A roll call has been requested, and the clerk
4538 will call the roll.

4539 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4540 *Mr. Latta. No.

4541 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

4542 Mr. Griffith?

4543 *Mr. Griffith. No.

4544 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

4545 Mr. Bilirakis?

4546 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

4547 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

4548 Mr. Hudson?

4549 *Mr. Hudson. No.

4550 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

4551 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

4552 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

4553 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

4554 Mr. Palmer?

4555 *Mr. Palmer. No.

4556 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

4557 Mr. Dunn?

4558 *Dr. Dunn. No.

4559 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

4560 Mr. Crenshaw?

4561 [No response.]

4562 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

4563 *Mr. Joyce. No.

4564 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

4565 Mr. Weber?

4566 *Mr. Weber. No.

4567 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.

4568 Mr. Allen?

4569 *Mr. Allen. No.

4570 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

4571 Mr. Balderson?

4572 *Mr. Balderson. No.

4573 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

4574 Mr. Fulcher?

4575 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

4576 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

4577 Mr. Pfluger?
4578 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
4579 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
4580 Mrs. Harshbarger?
4581 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4582 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4583 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4584 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
4585 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
4586 Mrs. Cammack?
4587 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
4588 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
4589 Mr. Obernolte?
4590 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
4591 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
4592 Mr. James?
4593 *Mr. James. No.
4594 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
4595 Mr. Bentz?
4596 *Mr. Bentz. No.
4597 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4598 Mrs. Houchin?
4599 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
4600 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
4601 Mr. Fry?

4602 *Mr. Fry. No.
4603 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
4604 Ms. Lee?
4605 *Ms. Lee. No.
4606 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
4607 Mr. Langworthy?
4608 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
4609 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
4610 Mr. Kean?
4611 *Mr. Kean. No.
4612 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
4613 Mr. Rulli?
4614 [No response.]
4615 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
4616 *Mr. Rulli. No.
4617 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
4618 Mr. Evans?
4619 *Mr. Evans. No.
4620 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
4621 Mr. Goldman?
4622 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4623 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4624 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4625 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4626 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

4627 Mr. Pallone?
4628 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4629 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4630 Ms. DeGette?
4631 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4632 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4633 Ms. Schakowsky?
4634 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4635 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4636 Ms. Matsui?
4637 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4638 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4639 Ms. Castor?
4640 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4641 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4642 Mr. Tonko?
4643 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4644 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4645 Ms. Clarke?
4646 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
4647 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4648 Mr. Ruiz?
4649 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4650 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4651 Mr. Peters?

4652 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4653 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4654 Mrs. Dingell?
4655 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4656 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4657 Mr. Veasey?
4658 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4659 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4660 Ms. Kelly?
4661 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4662 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4663 Ms. Barragan?
4664 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4665 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4666 Mr. Soto?
4667 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4668 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4669 Ms. Schrier?
4670 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4671 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4672 Mrs. Trahan?
4673 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4674 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4675 Mrs. Fletcher?
4676 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

4677 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4678 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4679 [No response.]
4680 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?
4681 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4682 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4683 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4684 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4685 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4686 Mr. Menendez?
4687 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4688 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4689 Mr. Mullin?
4690 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4691 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4692 Mr. Landsman?
4693 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4694 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4695 Ms. McClellan?
4696 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4697 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4698 Chairman Guthrie?
4699 *The Chair. No.
4700 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
4701 *The Chair. The clerk will report. Is anyone seeking a

4702 roll call?

4703 The clerk will report.

4704 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there are 23
4705 ayes and 29 noes.

4706 *The Chair. How many ayes? I am sorry.

4707 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman. There were 23 ayes and 29
4708 noes.

4709 *The Chair. With 23 ayes and 29 noes, the noes have it
4710 and the bill -- the amendment is not agreed to.

4711 *Mr. Pallone. Dingell is next.

4712 *The Chair. The clerk -- is there further -- are there
4713 any further amendments?

4714 The gentlelady from Michigan, for what purpose do you
4715 seek recognition?

4716 *Mrs. Dingell. I have an amendment at the desk.

4717 *The Chair. Would you identify the amendment?

4718 *Mrs. Dingell. ARBITRATION_01.xml.

4719 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
4720 a substitute to H.R. 7757 offered by Mrs. Dingell of
4721 Michigan. Page 76 --

4722 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
4723 amendment is dispensed with.

4724

4725

4726

4727 [The amendment of Mrs. Dingell follows:]

4728

4729 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4730

4731 *The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
4732 minutes in support of her amendment.

4733 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4734 As drafted, this bill deeply concerns me on parents'
4735 rights. It contains preemption language and complex
4736 liability shields that, in practice, make it harder for
4737 families to seek justice. Children are going to continue to
4738 die. Parents are going to continue to get stonewalled. And
4739 all the while, tech companies will continue to avoid
4740 accountability.

4741 We are not talking about hypothetical situations.
4742 According to reports, more than 800 parents of children who
4743 allegedly sexually -- have been sexually exploited online
4744 have recently demanded that big tech abandon efforts to force
4745 claims into arbitration. Here is what happens with forced
4746 arbitration: it keeps cases secret, it limits
4747 accountability, and it denies families their day in court.
4748 And before someone else says this is the trial lawyers, you
4749 -- I have my daily moments with the trial lawyers. Remember
4750 where I come from. I am in the auto industry. But this is
4751 something that parents have a right because if they are going
4752 to try to help other parents you cannot hide what has
4753 happened.

4754 I will note that nearly 80 percent of consumers don't
4755 even realize they have signed away their right to sue through

4756 forced arbitration clauses that are buried in contracts in
4757 terms of the services. And let's all be honest, once in
4758 arbitration companies win most cases.

4759 If we are serious about protecting kids online, we
4760 cannot simultaneously shield platforms from public
4761 accountability. Transparency and justice matter. And that
4762 is why I have introduced this amendment to ensure that
4763 children and their parents are not forced into mandatory
4764 arbitration when bringing claims involves online safety or
4765 privacy harms. That families have a right to seek relief in
4766 court. This is about accountability. It is about
4767 transparency, and it is about fairness. And ultimately, it
4768 protects our children.

4769 With that I yield back.

4770 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
4771 further discussion on the amendment?

4772 Seeing none, a roll call being requested -- oh, there is
4773 -- seeing none, the clerk will call the roll.

4774 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4775 *Mr. Latta. No.

4776 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

4777 Mr. Griffith?

4778 *Mr. Griffith. No.

4779 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

4780 Mr. Bilirakis?

4781 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
4782 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
4783 Mr. Hudson?
4784 *Mr. Hudson. No.
4785 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
4786 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
4787 [No response.]
4788 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
4789 *Mr. Palmer. No.
4790 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
4791 Mr. Dunn?
4792 *Dr. Dunn. No.
4793 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
4794 Mr. Crenshaw?
4795 [No response.]
4796 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
4797 [No response.]
4798 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
4799 *Mr. Weber. No.
4800 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
4801 Mr. Allen?
4802 [No response.]
4803 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
4804 *Mr. Balderson. No.
4805 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.

4806 Mr. Fulcher?
4807 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
4808 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
4809 Mr. Pfluger?
4810 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
4811 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
4812 Mrs. Harshbarger?
4813 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
4814 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
4815 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
4816 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
4817 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
4818 Mrs. Cammack?
4819 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
4820 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
4821 Mr. Obernolte?
4822 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
4823 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
4824 Mr. James?
4825 *Mr. James. No.
4826 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
4827 Mr. Bentz?
4828 *Mr. Bentz. No.
4829 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
4830 Mrs. Houchin?

4831 *Mrs. Houchin. No.
4832 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.
4833 Mr. Fry?
4834 *Mr. Fry. No.
4835 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
4836 Ms. Lee?
4837 *Ms. Lee. No.
4838 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
4839 Mr. Langworthy?
4840 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
4841 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes no.
4842 Mr. Kean?
4843 *Mr. Kean. No.
4844 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
4845 Mr. Rulli?
4846 [No response.]
4847 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
4848 *Mr. Evans. No.
4849 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
4850 Mr. Goldman?
4851 *Mr. Goldman. No.
4852 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
4853 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4854 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
4855 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

4856 Mr. Pallone?
4857 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4858 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4859 Ms. DeGette?
4860 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4861 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4862 Ms. Schakowsky?
4863 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4864 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4865 Ms. Matsui?
4866 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4867 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4868 Ms. Castor?
4869 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4870 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4871 Mr. Tonko?
4872 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4873 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4874 Ms. Clarke?
4875 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
4876 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4877 Mr. Ruiz?
4878 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4879 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4880 Mr. Peters?

4881 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
4882 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4883 Mrs. Dingell?
4884 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4885 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4886 Mr. Veasey?
4887 [No response.]
4888 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
4889 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4890 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4891 Ms. Barragan?
4892 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4893 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4894 Mr. Soto?
4895 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4896 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4897 Ms. Schrier?
4898 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4899 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4900 Mrs. Trahan?
4901 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4902 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4903 Mrs. Fletcher?
4904 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4905 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

4906 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
4907 [No response.]
4908 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?
4909 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
4910 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
4911 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
4912 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
4913 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
4914 Mr. Menendez?
4915 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
4916 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
4917 Mr. Mullin?
4918 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
4919 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
4920 Mr. Landsman?
4921 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
4922 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
4923 Ms. McClellan?
4924 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
4925 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
4926 Chairman Guthrie?
4927 *The Chair. No.
4928 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
4929 *The Chair. How is Dr. Joyce recorded?
4930 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.

4931 *Dr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.
4932 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce --
4933 *The Chair. Mr. Carter of Georgia.
4934 *The Clerk. -- votes no.
4935 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.
4936 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.
4937 *The Chair. Is anyone on the Democrat side seeking
4938 recognition?
4939 Mr. Veasey.
4940 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.
4941 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
4942 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4943 *The Chair. Seeing none, the clerk will report.
4944 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there are 23
4945 eyes and 27 noes.
4946 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Is there
4947 any further amendments?
4948 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Washington
4949 seek recognition?
4950 *Dr. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
4951 amendment at the desk.
4952 *The Chair. Identify your -- I am sorry.
4953 *Dr. Schrier. Twenty-three.
4954 *The Chair. Twenty-three?
4955 *Dr. Schrier. Schrier Washington 23.

4956 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

4957 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
4958 a substitute to H.R. 7757.

4959 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
4960 amendment is dispensed with.

4961 [The amendment of Ms. Schrier follows:]

4962

4963 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4964

4965 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Washington is
4966 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

4967 *Dr. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4968 As I said before, I am extremely frustrated with this
4969 markup, and protecting kids online is paramount and we are
4970 years behind in passing legislation. We can't keep letting
4971 entire generations of kids be treated like guinea pigs to
4972 predatory big tech and social media platforms.

4973 I know that the concerns in this committee are genuinely
4974 bipartisan. We need our policy to be bipartisan, too. That
4975 is why I am offering an amendment today to include the text
4976 of the Kids Off Social Media Act. This is a bipartisan,
4977 bicameral bill that has strong support in the Senate and even
4978 passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee. It is a bill
4979 that will keep kids under 13 off social media entirely, and
4980 would prevent social media companies from using any
4981 personalized recommendation systems on minors under the age
4982 of 17, and it actually has a path forward.

4983 These are vital protections for kids who are spending
4984 too much time being sucked into social media by algorithms
4985 that are designed to keep them scrolling. I urge my
4986 colleagues to come to the table on strong bipartisan
4987 proposals so that we can pass truly comprehensive and
4988 impactful legislation to protect kids' on time -- online.

4989 I know we need to continue to work on this as a

4990 committee, and so I withdraw this amendment and I will yield
4991 back.

4992 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
4993 further discussion?

4994 The gentlelady from Indiana is recognized for five
4995 minutes to speak on the amendment.

4996 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise in
4997 strong opposition to this bill -- this amendment.

4998 The Kids Off Social Media Act should be called the Kids
4999 on Social Media Act because it sets a minimum age for social
5000 media at the age of 13, which would do nothing to present --
5001 prevent the issues that I experienced as a parent or that any
5002 of these other parents have experienced. That is the exact
5003 threshold that every major platform already has today. It
5004 has been the standard for 30 years, mostly because of how
5005 online services comply with COPPA 1.0 from 1996. We would be
5006 writing into Federal law the same standard that Meta has been
5007 hiding behind for a decade. That is not reform. It is not
5008 good. That is a gift to big tech.

5009 I don't -- there shouldn't be a single individual in
5010 here that thinks the status quo is acceptable to prevent
5011 harm. How much research do we need to know, to have to prove
5012 that we think 13 should not be the age of adulthood for kids
5013 online? That -- this bill simply makes the broken status quo
5014 permanent.

5015 The science is not ambiguous. The heaviest damage for
5016 anxiety, depression, and self harm hits hardest between the
5017 ages of 11 and 15. My RESET Act draws the line at 16 because
5018 that is what research demands, and because it actually
5019 requires the platforms to do something different than what
5020 they are already doing.

5021 I appreciate the intent behind the amendment. I hope
5022 that Representative Schrier will come on board to the RESET
5023 Act, where it sets a clear line at age 16. But by codifying
5024 the status quo and calling it a win is not something I can
5025 support. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and
5026 join me for pushing in for a standard that will actually move
5027 the line and protect children.

5028 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

5029 *The Chair. Thank you --

5030 *Dr. Schrier. Will the gentlelady yield?

5031 *The Chair. Will the gentlelady yield to the gentlelady
5032 from -- did you yield back, or --

5033 *Mrs. Houchin. I yield back.

5034 *The Chair. So the -- so if you yield back, did I
5035 understand that -- I must have misheard. Did you withdraw
5036 the amendment?

5037 *Dr. Schrier. I withdrew my amendment, but --

5038 *The Chair. Oh, okay. I didn't understand you --

5039 *Dr. Schrier. I just had one comment to make.

5040 But thank you for your comments, Mrs. Houchin.

5041 *The Chair. Thank you. The amendment has been
5042 withdrawn. Are there any further amendments?

5043 Seeing none, if there is no further amendments, we will
5044 move to the amendment in the nature of a substitute. Are
5045 there any amendments to the amendment in the nature of a
5046 substitute?

5047 Mr. Dunn.

5048 *Dr. Dunn. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chair.

5049 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to strike the
5050 last word.

5051 *Dr. Dunn. So I want to urge my colleagues to support
5052 this legislation, my legislation, the Safe Messaging for Kids
5053 Act, included in Chairman Guthrie's KIDS Act today.

5054 The KIDS Act is a package of bipartisan bills that
5055 brings together several pieces of legislation, many of which
5056 my colleagues and I have been working on to perfect for
5057 years. I am proud of my friend, Chairman Guthrie, in
5058 prioritizing protecting children by ensuring that we pass
5059 these bills through committee today.

5060 As a father and a grandfather, I vehemently maintain
5061 that our data privacy laws must be updated to protect minors
5062 online. My grandkids are living in 2026, not 1998 when the
5063 COPPA Act was first passed. Our laws must keep pace with the
5064 tech that our younger generations are using, and today we are

5065 facing a crisis of our own making, and we failed to provide
5066 the digital equivalent of seat belts or smoke detectors.

5067 As a doctor, when a patient is bleeding I don't wait for
5068 a committee report. I apply a tourniquet. Right now our
5069 children are bleeding. They are being targeted, groomed,
5070 exploited on social media platforms built with features that
5071 allow predators to operate in the shadows. That is why I
5072 introduced the Safe Messaging for Kids Act.

5073 This bill is a direct intervention to stop two specific
5074 mechanisms that predators use to hunt our children:
5075 ephemeral messaging and unsolicited contact. Ephemeral
5076 messaging is the technical term for messages that vanish
5077 automatically after being viewed. Predators depend on these
5078 disappearing messages. They erase the trail of grooming,
5079 cyber-bullying, illegal drug sales before a parent can detect
5080 it, and long before law enforcement can act. My bill puts an
5081 end to this.

5082 Under the SMK Act, social media platforms are prohibited
5083 from offering auto-deleting messages and features to any user
5084 they know or deliberately avoid knowing is under the age of
5085 17. The solution is restoring parental authority. The SMK
5086 Act requires parental direct messaging controls that put the
5087 parents back in charge. For children under 13, direct
5088 messaging must be turned off by default. For teens under 17,
5089 texts must -- parents must have visibility into who is

5090 attempting to contact their child. Platforms will be
5091 required to alert parents to messages from unapproved
5092 contacts and give them the power to approve or deny those
5093 requests before the communication begins. This is not
5094 helicopter parenting. It is responsible parenting. We are
5095 giving families the tools they need to protect their
5096 children.

5097 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Our
5098 children depend on us.

5099 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield.

5100 *The Chair. Do you withdraw your motion to strike the
5101 last word?

5102 *Dr. Dunn. I --

5103 *The Chair. You withdraw your motion to strike the last
5104 word, so --

5105 *Dr. Dunn. Yes.

5106 *The Chair. So now, if there is no further discussion,
5107 the vote occurs on the amendment in the nature of a
5108 substitute. And this will be voice vote unless somebody
5109 requests different.

5110 All those in favor shall say aye.

5111 All opposed, say nay.

5112 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

5113 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 7757, as
5114 amended. A roll call has been requested and the clerk will

5115 call the roll.

5116 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5117 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

5118 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

5119 Mr. Griffith?

5120 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

5121 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

5122 Mr. Bilirakis?

5123 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

5124 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

5125 Mr. Hudson?

5126 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

5127 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

5128 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

5129 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

5130 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

5131 Mr. Palmer?

5132 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

5133 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

5134 Mr. Dunn?

5135 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.

5136 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

5137 Mr. Crenshaw?

5138 [No response.]

5139 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

5140 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
5141 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
5142 Mr. Weber?
5143 [No response.]
5144 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?
5145 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
5146 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
5147 Mr. Balderson?
5148 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
5149 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
5150 Mr. Fulcher?
5151 *Mr. Fulcher. Aye.
5152 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
5153 Mr. Pfluger?
5154 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
5155 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
5156 Mrs. Harshbarger?
5157 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye. Aye.
5158 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
5159 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
5160 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
5161 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
5162 Mrs. Cammack?
5163 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
5164 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

5165 Mr. Obernolte?
5166 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
5167 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
5168 Mr. James?
5169 *Mr. James. Aye.
5170 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
5171 Mr. Bentz?
5172 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
5173 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
5174 Mrs. Houchin?
5175 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
5176 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
5177 Mr. Fry?
5178 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
5179 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
5180 Ms. Lee?
5181 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
5182 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
5183 Mr. Langworthy?
5184 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
5185 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
5186 Mr. Kean?
5187 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
5188 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
5189 Mr. Rulli?

5190 [No response.]

5191 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

5192 *Mr. Evans. Aye.

5193 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.

5194 Mr. Goldman?

5195 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

5196 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

5197 Mrs. Fedorchak?

5198 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

5199 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

5200 Mr. Pallone?

5201 *Mr. Pallone. No.

5202 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.

5203 Ms. DeGette?

5204 *Ms. DeGette. No.

5205 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.

5206 Ms. Schakowsky?

5207 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.

5208 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.

5209 Ms. Matsui?

5210 *Ms. Matsui. No.

5211 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.

5212 Ms. Castor?

5213 *Ms. Castor. No.

5214 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

5215 Mr. Tonko?
5216 *Mr. Tonko. No.
5217 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
5218 Ms. Clarke?
5219 *Ms. Clarke. No.
5220 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
5221 Mr. Ruiz?
5222 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
5223 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
5224 Mr. Peters?
5225 *Mr. Peters. No.
5226 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
5227 Mrs. Dingell?
5228 *Mrs. Dingell. No.
5229 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.
5230 Mr. Veasey?
5231 *Mr. Veasey. No.
5232 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
5233 Ms. Kelly?
5234 *Ms. Kelly. No.
5235 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.
5236 Ms. Barragan?
5237 *Ms. Barragan. No.
5238 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
5239 Mr. Soto?

5240 *Mr. Soto. No.

5241 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.

5242 Ms. Schrier?

5243 *Ms. Schrier. No.

5244 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.

5245 Mrs. Trahan?

5246 *Mrs. Trahan. No.

5247 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.

5248 Mrs. Fletcher?

5249 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

5250 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

5251 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

5252 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

5253 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

5254 Mr. Auchincloss?

5255 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.

5256 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.

5257 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

5258 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.

5259 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.

5260 Mr. Menendez?

5261 *Mr. Menendez. No.

5262 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.

5263 Mr. Mullin?

5264 *Mr. Mullin. No.

5265 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
5266 Mr. Landsman?
5267 *Mr. Landsman. No.
5268 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.
5269 Ms. McClellan?
5270 *Ms. McClellan. No.
5271 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
5272 Chairman Guthrie?
5273 *The Chair. Aye.
5274 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
5275 *The Chair. So Mr. Weber?
5276 *Mr. Weber. Yes.
5277 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
5278 *The Chair. Anyone on the Republican or Democrat side?
5279 Everyone having voted, anyone coming, on their way?
5280 Does anybody know if anybody is on their way?
5281 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
5282 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there are 28
5283 ayes and 24 noes.
5284 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.
5285 So in honor of -- Mr. Chapman, in honor of your son, the
5286 chair calls up H.R. 2657, known as Sammy's Law, and asks the
5287 clerk to report.
5288 *The Clerk. H.R. 2657, a bill to require large social
5289 media platforms -- providers to create, maintain, and make

5290 available to third-party safety software providers a set of
5291 real-time applications --

5292 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
5293 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
5294 amendment at any point.

5295 So ordered.

5296 [The bill follows:]

5297

5298 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5299

5300 *The Chair. Does anybody seek to be recognized on the
5301 bill?

5302 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman?

5303 *The Chair. Mr. Carter from Georgia, you are recognized
5304 for five --

5305 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I have got an amendment in the
5306 nature of a substitute.

5307 *The Chair. Do you want to do the amendment first?

5308 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. It is up to you all.

5309 *The Chair. Does the clerk have the amendment?

5310 *Voice. Yes.

5311 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

5312 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
5313 H.R. 2657 offered by Mr. Carter of Georgia. Strike all after
5314 the --

5315 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
5316 amendment is dispensed with.

5317 [The amendment of Mr. Carter of Georgia follows:]

5318

5319 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5320

5321 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
5322 minutes in support of his amendment.

5323 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5324 I want to begin by recognizing the young man this bill
5325 is named after, if we can get it up.

5326 [Slide]

5327 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Sammy Chapman, whose picture is
5328 behind me. Sammy was a bright and a talented teenager whose
5329 life was tragically cut short after he became the victim of a
5330 fentanyl-poisoned drug he bought through social media. Like
5331 so many parents across the country, Sammy's family had no
5332 idea who he was talking to and what about until it was too
5333 late. We have the honor today of having Sammy's father here
5334 and other parents of their child victims today.

5335 Mr. Chapman, thank you for being here. You honor us
5336 with your presence.

5337 What happened to Sammy is a heartbreaking reminder that
5338 the social media world our children inhabit today can expose
5339 them to dangers that most parents simply cannot see and
5340 sometimes don't understand. And that is exactly why Sammy's
5341 Law is so important.

5342 This legislation gives parents the ability to use
5343 trusted, vetted, safe tools that allow them to responsibly
5344 supervise their child's social media activity on large social
5345 media platforms. Through secure interfaces, families can

5346 authorize safety software that can alert parents when
5347 dangerous content comes across their child's social media
5348 account.

5349 Today kids face real dangers on social media, including
5350 online predators, exploitation, drug sales, suicide
5351 encouragement, and trafficking networks that actively target
5352 young users. Third-party safety software can and does
5353 provide lifesaving alerts for all of these harms. It is
5354 comprehensive protection.

5355 Simply put, this bill restores something parents should
5356 never have lost: the ability to protect their children on
5357 social media.

5358 Too often parents often discover these threats after a
5359 tragedy has already occurred. Sammy's Law gives families the
5360 tools they need to identify those warning signs earlier and
5361 intervene before harm is done. And in doing so, this bill
5362 will save lives. Sammy's Law also includes strong safeguards
5363 to protect children's data and ensure responsible use of
5364 these tools.

5365 Third-party safety software providers must register with
5366 the Federal Trade Commission, undergo independent annual
5367 audits, and are strictly prohibited from selling children's
5368 data. Data disclosure to parents is limited only to what is
5369 necessary to protect a child from harm. Remember, only to
5370 what is necessary to protect a child from harm. And strict

5371 deletion requirements ensure that sensitive information is
5372 not retained unnecessarily.

5373 In other words, this bill carefully balances child
5374 safety with strong, new privacy protections.

5375 And at the end of the day, Sammy's Law is about
5376 empowering families. It gives parents the ability to see
5377 when their child may be in danger, and the opportunity to
5378 step in before it becomes a tragedy. This is absolutely
5379 necessary because the harms that our children are confronting
5380 on social media are severe, and our children simply do not
5381 yet have the development skills to protect themselves alone.

5382 If this bill helps even one family, even one family
5383 avoid what happened to Sammy Chapman, then it will be worth
5384 it. As the proud grandfather of six beautiful grand -- of
5385 eight beautiful grandkids, I want to know their -- that their
5386 parents and all other parents across the country have the
5387 best safety tools possible when protecting their innocent
5388 loved ones. What happened to Sammy is a travesty that no
5389 parent should experience, and we can prevent it today by
5390 passing this bill.

5391 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. This
5392 is important legislation. As my colleague Representative
5393 Miller-Meeks said a little while ago, parents need help.
5394 They need help with this. They can't do it alone. This is a
5395 tool that will help them, a tool in their tool chest. God

5396 forbid that this happen to anyone else. We need to take
5397 action.

5398 You know, I don't -- I doubt any of you knew my dad, but
5399 my dad used to tell me something. He used to say, "Son, when
5400 you don't do something, you are doing something.'" And if we
5401 don't do something, then we are doing something. We are
5402 ignoring an opportunity to help people. We need to do
5403 something today. We need to pass Sammy's Law.

5404 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

5405 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
5406 recognizes the ranking member of the full committee, Mr.
5407 Pallone, for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

5408 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5409 I do want to say that I share the goal of this bill, to
5410 keep kids safe and to prevent more tragedies from occurring,
5411 but I have to oppose the bill today because I am concerned
5412 that it takes us a step in the wrong direction on privacy.

5413 This bill requires social media companies to provide
5414 access to children's private accounts and communications to
5415 third-party safety software providers who then are empowered
5416 to share these communications with law enforcement and
5417 parents. I have concerns both about the precedent that sets
5418 for private communications, including encrypted
5419 communications, and the potential for harm to kids whose
5420 parents enable this monitoring software.

5421 These third-party safety software providers would be
5422 sitting in on conversations between children and their
5423 friends, enabled to view encrypted messages, undermining the
5424 privacy of children, even those whose parents might not
5425 consent to the surveillance. The providers would be required
5426 to keep data related to disclosures made under the act until
5427 a request for deletion or a child turning 17. That is not
5428 data minimization in action, and I am very concerned that we
5429 need data minimization.

5430 Moreover, not all kids are raised in supportive or even
5431 safe households. As Congress, we have a duty to keep all
5432 kids safe and I worry that this bill risks exposing kids in
5433 bad situations to harm if their conversations are revealed to
5434 their parents. And for these reasons I will be voting no on
5435 H.R. 2657.

5436 But despite my no vote today, I do remain committed to
5437 continuing to work on solutions to hold tech companies like
5438 Snap accountable for making their platforms a safer place for
5439 kids online. So with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the
5440 balance of my time.

5441 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair
5442 recognizes the gentlelady from Iowa for five minutes to speak
5443 on the bill -- or the amendment.

5444 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also
5445 want to thank Representatives Carter, Schrier, and Wasserman

5446 Schultz for their work on this important bill.

5447 Millions of children and teenagers interact with social
5448 media every single day, and many are exposed to content that
5449 can negatively affect their mental health and their well-
5450 being. And never have we seen this more clearly than we did
5451 during the pandemic, when children were isolated and not in
5452 school.

5453 As parents try to navigate an ever-changing digital
5454 landscape for which their children often are more proficient
5455 than they are, they deserve practical tools that can help
5456 them keep their children safe online.

5457 The primary duty of a parent is to protect their
5458 children. Sammy's Law takes a common-sense approach by
5459 giving parents more control over their children's online
5460 experiences. The bill creates pathways for trusted third-
5461 party safety applications that can alert parents when harmful
5462 or dangerous content is shared with their child.

5463 For goodness sakes, when I grew up you could not go buy
5464 a pornographic magazine in the store without having proof of
5465 ID or parental -- or some other adult gave it to you.

5466 Just as important, it ensures families have access to
5467 mental health resources when young people need additional
5468 support. At its core, this legislation is about empowering
5469 parents and providing them with options to better protect
5470 their children in today's digital environment.

5471 I appreciate the bipartisan effort behind this bill and
5472 look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to
5473 ensure their families have tools that they need to keep their
5474 kids safe online.

5475 I now yield time to Representative Carter.

5476 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I thank the lady for yielding.
5477 I want to address the concerns that the minority leader had
5478 that he had addressed about the privacy.

5479 Actually, what Sammy's Law does is it improves
5480 children's privacy compared to the status quo. We are
5481 actually improving the status quo right now. Today most
5482 parents are -- who are deeply concerned about the dangers of
5483 social media -- and they should be -- and they are following
5484 the common sense advice of the experts like the American
5485 Psychological Association, they attempt to provide
5486 responsible supervision of social media use. But as has been
5487 pointed out in this hearing, they need help. They can't do
5488 it alone. And without comprehensive access to safety
5489 software, many parents resort to invasive methods like
5490 manually reviewing their child's phone. Safety software
5491 instead provides targeted alerts, targeted alerts -- key
5492 phrases, key words -- only when serious risks are detected
5493 such as suicide, exploitation, or trafficking.

5494 So to address the concerns about the privacy, we are
5495 actually improving the privacy.

5496 And I yield back to the lady from Iowa.

5497 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you. I would just say that
5498 my first grandchild was born this weekend. And even though I
5499 supported this bill before, I want this child's parents to
5500 have the tools they need to protect that precious little
5501 baby.

5502 Thank you, and I yield back.

5503 *The Chair. Welcome back to the -- welcome to the
5504 grandparents club. It is a wonderful club, isn't it, Mr.
5505 Ranking Member?

5506 [Applause.]

5507 *The Chair. The gentleman from Massachusetts is
5508 recognized for five minutes.

5509 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Chairman, and
5510 congratulations to the gentlelady.

5511 I want to express that I think the gentleman from
5512 Georgia is making some really reasonable points here and
5513 that, frankly, as a parent of three children, I would
5514 probably avail myself of these tools because I understand the
5515 intent here. Let me put forward, though, two considerations
5516 that are keeping me from voting yes on this.

5517 The first is that we have to recognize the pattern that
5518 when we build skeleton keys into the backs of technology,
5519 those skeleton keys do get abused by bad actors. We have
5520 seen this pattern over the course of 20 years here. They get

5521 abused by law enforcement at various levels in ways that are
5522 -- that undermine due process and civil rights. That is not
5523 academic. Unfortunately, we are seeing that right now with
5524 this Federal Government. They get abused by over-zealous
5525 attorneys general in pursuit of ideological caucus -- causes.
5526 They get abused by unsupportive parents or spouses or
5527 significant others, including parents of the children that
5528 your children is interacting with. Because remember, there
5529 is two degrees of association here that the privacy can be
5530 revealed. And I think we have to really acknowledge that
5531 these skeleton keys are going to be abused by bad actors and
5532 that those long-tail effects have real consequences.

5533 The second consideration, though, to me is more
5534 fundamental, which is I worry about the premise that we are
5535 accepting here. It feels like we are accepting a premise
5536 that big tech has created a surveillance economy at the
5537 expense of our children, and so the way to counteract that is
5538 to give parents the tools to also surveil their children, and
5539 to have a, like, sort of cat-and-mouse game of who can
5540 surveil more effectively. Well, you know what? Parents are
5541 going to lose that because they don't have 100,000 software
5542 engineers and, you know, consulting addiction specialists
5543 like Mark Zuckerberg does. Parents are trying to work a job
5544 and keep their kids healthy and figure out, you know, the
5545 day-in, day-out life. They can't be tech experts, keeping up

5546 to date with all the latest software applications.

5547 What we actually need to do is here in Congress, where
5548 we do have the power, is hold these social media corporations
5549 accountable directly with a duty of care, with age limits,
5550 and, of course, with liability so that when they violate the
5551 trust that parents are putting in them, when their kids
5552 download these apps, they can be sued for it. That is the
5553 way I think that we empower parents against their
5554 surveillance economy.

5555 I yield back, Chair.

5556 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
5557 further discussion?

5558 Mr. Palmer from Alabama is recognized for five minutes.

5559 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the chairman. I move to strike
5560 the last word.

5561 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the
5562 amendment.

5563 *Mr. Palmer. I rise to speak on the amendment.

5564 This is serious stuff. And I realize that there are
5565 serious discussions about privacy, but we have got to realize
5566 that the parents have to know what is going on with their
5567 children. And I think that is of paramount importance here.

5568 I think what Representative Carter is trying to do is
5569 empower the parents, give them the tools that they need to be
5570 able to intervene before it is too late.

5571 And with that I will yield to time to Representative
5572 Carter.

5573 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for
5574 yielding. I just wanted to respond, if I could, to my friend
5575 from Massachusetts, and he made some good points.

5576 There is a risk here of abuse. You know, I don't know
5577 if you all knew it or not, I am a pharmacist. And one of the
5578 things that --

5579 [Laughter.]

5580 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. It is news to everybody. That
5581 is an inside joke, folks.

5582 [Laughter.]

5583 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Anyway -- no, seriously,
5584 seriously. One of the things that we did when I was a
5585 consultant pharmacist in a long-term care facility, you
5586 always considered, does the risk outweigh the benefit? In
5587 this case it does not. The benefit outweighs the risk. This
5588 is a benefit. Yes, there are risks.

5589 And to the gentleman's other point about duty of care
5590 and about making it stronger, I am sure we can make it
5591 stronger, but let's not let perfect get in the way of very
5592 good. This is a good bill. This is a good step, a good step
5593 in the right direction. Yes, we need to do more, and we will
5594 do more.

5595 And you -- and the gentleman is absolutely right when he

5596 says that we are not going to be able to out-compete the
5597 platforms. They have got addiction experts. He is
5598 absolutely right. But that doesn't mean we can't try. That
5599 doesn't mean we don't do everything we can to give parents a
5600 fighting chance. And this gives parents a fighting chance.

5601 And I will yield back to the gentleman from Alabama.

5602 *Mr. Palmer. I yield.

5603 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
5604 from Washington, Dr. Schrier, is recognized for five minutes
5605 to speak on the amendment.

5606 *Dr. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5607 I am very proud to be able to support Sammy's Law during
5608 this markup today, along with my colleagues, Ms. Wasserman
5609 Schultz, Mr. Carter, and Dr. Miller-Meeks.

5610 I have been listening to all the comments here today,
5611 listening as the mom of a 17-year-old. And I look at the
5612 parents here today and I just think all we want to do is keep
5613 our kids safe. And I don't know about other parents out
5614 there. I mean, I have an agreement with my son that it was
5615 part of the deal, you know, like, we get you a phone, we get
5616 access to it because we want to make sure you are safe. But,
5617 you know, I also feel like at 17 he deserves privacy, and
5618 that it is not really okay for me to be reading his text
5619 messages.

5620 I mean, what it really comes down to is we just want to

5621 be alerted if there is something that is really dangerous
5622 going on that would give us a signal so that we could just
5623 sit down and have a conversation and not miss the
5624 opportunity.

5625 And this doesn't let social media companies off the
5626 hook. It has nothing to do with that. This is just giving
5627 parents another tool. These third-party platforms, they are
5628 already out there, parents already use them. This just makes
5629 it so that if there is something really dangerous coming up,
5630 that all of these social media platforms, all the major ones,
5631 have to participate and let these kind of watchdog parent-
5632 supporting platforms have access to that so that parents have
5633 more reassurance.

5634 It is a bipartisan bill. We have worked on this for
5635 years, and I am really happy to see it moving forward with
5636 lots of support today. It just ensures that parents have
5637 another tool to keep their kids safe online while still
5638 preserving their privacy.

5639 And I know about the parents who are here in the room
5640 today, and thank you, Mr. Chapman, for being here. They have
5641 they have lost their kids to the fentanyl poisoning, and
5642 suicide, and harassment online, bullying. And these are
5643 things that are caused by the platforms and then the people,
5644 many adults, that kids encounter online. And so I just want
5645 to thank all the parents here for your advocacy.

5646 This bill is named after, as you know, 16-year-old Sammy
5647 Chapman, who unknowingly bought a fentanyl-laced pill on
5648 Snapchat, and that pill killed him. And he is far from the
5649 only one, and that is why this law is so necessary. It would
5650 ensure that third-party safety apps can just alert parents
5651 when their child is experiencing or at clear risk to
5652 experience harm. There are very specific categories:
5653 suicide, depression, eating disorders, violence, sexual
5654 abuse, trafficking. These safety apps are watchdogs that
5655 alert parents when there is a real and imminent risk of harm
5656 to their child. They share only the most necessary
5657 information so that the parents can understand what the
5658 danger might be.

5659 And this doesn't help parents track their kid's every
5660 move or thought online. It just helps them know what is
5661 going on so they can keep their kids out of true and life-
5662 threatening harm.

5663 Many social media companies, as I mentioned, already
5664 provide access to these apps, but, notably, Snapchat does
5665 not. Sammy's Law would ensure that all major social media
5666 companies provide access so that bad actors can't skirt these
5667 important protections. I really, truly believe that Sammy's
5668 Law will save lives.

5669 Keeping kids safe online is a tall task for any parent
5670 these days, and Sammy's Law will make that task just a little

5671 easier and will keep kids safer.

5672 I want to thank my colleagues again who I have partnered
5673 with on this bill, and I want to thank you for your hard work
5674 and collaboration, and I urge my colleagues to support this
5675 bill, support parents, and keep kids safe.

5676 And I yield back.

5677 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentlelady
5678 from New York is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
5679 amendment.

5680 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you. I would like to also
5681 kind of speak a little bit to some of the concerns that the
5682 gentleman from Massachusetts had raised earlier, as well.

5683 In this bill I have seen a couple of aspects here that I
5684 think are points of concern: one, this idea of making
5685 available third-party safety software by tech creators or by
5686 tech companies to manage children's online interactions,
5687 content, and account settings. These -- from what we are
5688 seeing, these third-party softwares are very likely to be
5689 powered by AI. And I have massive concerns about the
5690 absolute explosion and unregulated expansion of AI
5691 jurisdiction around personal and sensitive information, and
5692 particularly around AI's collection of data around children.

5693 From what I also see, there is state preemption included
5694 in the bill, which I think also raises some other concerns
5695 that we have had around this issue. And the privacy piece,

5696 as well, in terms of abuse of some of the most sensitive
5697 information about some of our most vulnerable Americans and
5698 American children.

5699 And so I just wanted to raise some of those aspects of
5700 this in this debate. And with that I yield back.

5701 *The Chair. The gentlelady -- I am sorry, the
5702 gentlelady yields back. Is there further discussion on the
5703 Republican side?

5704 The gentlelady from Virginia, Ms. McClellan, you are
5705 recognized for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

5706 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5707 You know, this one is a hard one for me because I
5708 understand what we are trying to do. And again, as a parent,
5709 I agree with the concept. But I have some very real concerns
5710 about, you know, as the gentleman from Massachusetts had
5711 said, we are basically creating a surveillance state on our
5712 children. And the more entities or hands, virtual hands,
5713 that touch data, the more likely it is to be stolen. And I
5714 don't think the cybersecurity safeguards in this bill are
5715 strong enough.

5716 And one of the things we haven't talked about yet that
5717 we need to do to keep our kids safe is how images and data
5718 about our children is being stolen and manipulated to create
5719 deep fakes that include using them in AI-generated
5720 pornography. And to surveil all of our children's social

5721 media interactions or digital interactions to flag something
5722 that is dangerous -- remember, they are looking at every
5723 single interaction. And if somebody hacks that or gets a
5724 hold of that and the cybersecurity safeguards fail, you are
5725 giving more people a touchpoint.

5726 Basically, you are saying you want to find kid online
5727 data? Here is your target. Go hack this site, and you will
5728 have access to a plethora of private data, images, or
5729 whatever of kids. And before we go down that road, we got to
5730 be really sure that the cybersecurity safeguards are strong
5731 enough to protect that new target for some really bad actors.
5732 I am not sure we have thought through that far enough, and I
5733 hope we can fix that concern.

5734 I yield back.

5735 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
5736 further discussion? Further discussion?

5737 Seeing none --

5738 *Mr. Pallone. A roll call.

5739 *The Chair. The vote -- we need to adopt the -- so the
5740 vote -- if there is no further discussion, the vote is on the
5741 amendment, this amendment in the nature of a substitute. I
5742 believe we agree there will be a voice vote. So I will call.

5743 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

5744 All opposed, no.

5745 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

5746 The question now occurs on adopting Sammy's Law, H.R.
5747 2657, as amended. A roll call has been requested, and the
5748 clerk will call the roll.

5749 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5750 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

5751 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

5752 Mr. Griffith?

5753 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

5754 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

5755 Mr. Bilirakis?

5756 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

5757 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

5758 Mr. Hudson?

5759 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

5760 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

5761 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

5762 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

5763 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

5764 Mr. Palmer?

5765 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

5766 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

5767 Mr. Dunn?

5768 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.

5769 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

5770 Mr. Crenshaw?

5771 [No response.]

5772 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

5773 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

5774 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

5775 Mr. Weber?

5776 [No response.]

5777 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

5778 [No response.]

5779 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?

5780 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

5781 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

5782 Mr. Fulcher?

5783 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

5784 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

5785 Mr. Pfluger?

5786 [No response.]

5787 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

5788 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

5789 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

5790 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

5791 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

5792 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

5793 Mrs. Cammack?

5794 [No response.]

5795 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

5796 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
5797 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
5798 Mr. James?
5799 *Mr. James. Aye.
5800 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
5801 Mr. Bentz?
5802 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
5803 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
5804 Mrs. Houchin?
5805 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
5806 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
5807 Mr. Fry?
5808 *Mr. Fry. Aye.
5809 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.
5810 Ms. Lee?
5811 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
5812 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
5813 Mr. Langworthy?
5814 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
5815 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
5816 Mr. Kean?
5817 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
5818 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
5819 Mr. Rulli?
5820 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.

5821 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
5822 Mr. Evans?
5823 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
5824 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
5825 Mr. Goldman?
5826 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
5827 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
5828 Mrs. Fedorchak?
5829 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
5830 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
5831 Mr. Pallone?
5832 *Mr. Pallone. No.
5833 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
5834 Ms. DeGette?
5835 *Ms. DeGette. No.
5836 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
5837 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.
5838 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
5839 Ms. Matsui?
5840 *Ms. Matsui. No.
5841 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
5842 Ms. Castor?
5843 [No response.]
5844 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor?
5845 *Ms. Castor. No.

5846 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
5847 Mr. Tonko?
5848 *Mr. Tonko. No.
5849 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
5850 Ms. Clarke?
5851 *Ms. Clarke. No.
5852 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
5853 Mr. Ruiz?
5854 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
5855 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
5856 Mr. Peters?
5857 *Mr. Peters. No.
5858 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
5859 Mrs. Dingell?
5860 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
5861 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
5862 Mr. Veasey?
5863 *Mr. Veasey. No.
5864 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes no.
5865 Ms. Kelly?
5866 [No response.]
5867 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
5868 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
5869 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
5870 Mr. Soto?

5871 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

5872 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

5873 Ms. Schrier?

5874 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

5875 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

5876 Mrs. Trahan?

5877 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

5878 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

5879 Mrs. Fletcher?

5880 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.

5881 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.

5882 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

5883 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.

5884 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.

5885 Mr. Auchincloss?

5886 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.

5887 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.

5888 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

5889 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.

5890 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.

5891 Mr. Menendez?

5892 [No response.]

5893 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

5894 *Mr. Menendez. No.

5895 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.

5896 Mr. Mullin?
5897 *Mr. Mullin. No.
5898 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
5899 Mr. Landsman?
5900 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.
5901 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
5902 Ms. McClellan?
5903 *Ms. McClellan. No.
5904 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
5905 Chairman Guthrie?
5906 *The Chair. Aye.
5907 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
5908 *The Chair. Mr. Weber?
5909 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
5910 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
5911 *The Chair. Mr. Allen?
5912 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
5913 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
5914 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?
5915 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.
5916 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
5917 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
5918 *The Chair. Mr. Pfluger?
5919 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
5920 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

5921 *The Chair. Is there anybody else on the Republican
5922 side or the Democrat side? Has everybody voted that --
5923 recorded?

5924 The clerk will report.

5925 [Pause.]

5926 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 36
5927 ayes and 16 noes.

5928 *The Chair. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

5929 [Applause.]

5930 *The Chair. The chair calls up H.R. 3149, and asks the
5931 clerk to report.

5932 *The Clerk. H.R. 3149, a bill to safeguard children by
5933 providing parents with clear and accurate information about
5934 the apps downloaded --

5935 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
5936 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
5937 amendment at any point.

5938 So ordered.

5939 [The bill follows:]

5940

5941 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5942

5943 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
5944 bill?

5945 If there is no discussion on the bill -- for what
5946 purpose does the gentleman from Michigan seek recognition?

5947 *Mr. James. Mr. Chairman, I seek recognition to speak
5948 on behalf of my bill.

5949 *The Chair. We have an amendment at the desk.

5950 *Mr. James. Okay.

5951 *The Chair. So the amendment in the nature of
5952 substitute for Mr. James.

5953 *Mr. James. All right, the ANS first, all right. I
5954 have an amendment today in the nature of substitute.

5955 I am grateful to my colleague --

5956 *The Chair. Well, let me -- he has to report the
5957 amendment, I am sorry.

5958 *Mr. James. All right.

5959 *The Chair. Have you got the amendment to report?

5960 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
5961 H.R. 3149.

5962 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
5963 amendment is dispensed with.

5964 [The amendment of Mr. James follows:]

5965

5966 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5967

5968 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Michigan is
5969 recognized to speak for five minutes in support of the
5970 amendment.

5971 *Mr. James. I am grateful to my colleague, Mr.
5972 Obernolte, for working on this bill with me.

5973 This amendment represents a narrow and practical update
5974 to the App Store Accountability Act, while at the same time
5975 maintaining the core spirit of the bill.

5976 My number-one goal has always been to empower parents
5977 and protect children online. This is what parents want and
5978 this is what my bill will do. As I said in -- earlier, kids
5979 cannot consent. And any company that exposes them to
5980 addictive or adult materials should be held accountable. I
5981 repeat, kids cannot consent and no one is above the law,
5982 including big tech.

5983 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

5984 *The Chair. The gentleman yields?

5985 The gentleman yields. Is there any further discussion
5986 on the amendment?

5987 Seeing no further discussion on the amendment, are there
5988 further amendments?

5989 Oh, you -- I am sorry.

5990 *Mr. Veasey. Yes.

5991 *The Chair. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for
5992 five minutes to speak on the amendment.

5993 *Mr. Veasey. Yes. No, Mr. Chairman, thank you very
5994 much. I am not supporting the amendment. I am happy to see
5995 that we are having conversations, that these companies are
5996 having conversations about -- around these apps being
5997 accountable, but I definitely still have some issues. But I
5998 am glad that we are at least having some conversations around
5999 there, because I think that this is probably just the
6000 beginning of something that I think is going to be important
6001 in helping get this right. So I just wanted to put that in
6002 there, and I wanted to thank the gentleman for working on the
6003 amendment, even though I am not supporting it today.

6004 Thank you.

6005 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there a
6006 gentleman from California seeking recognition to speak on the
6007 amendment?

6008 *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6009 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five
6010 minutes to speak on the amendment.

6011 *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6012 This bill, H.R. 3149, takes some very meaningful steps
6013 in giving parents visibility and control over the content
6014 that their children consume through mobile applications and
6015 app stores.

6016 And I would like to thank my colleague, Representative
6017 James, and the committee staff for working with me on

6018 improving the bill. I think we have made a lot of meaningful
6019 progress here.

6020 This is something that -- this work product is something
6021 that is very implementable now. And although I think it
6022 still needs a little bit more work moving forward, it has
6023 really come a long ways, and I would urge everyone to support
6024 it and give parents the tools that they need to oversee the
6025 content that their kids are consuming online.

6026 I yield back.

6027 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
6028 speaking on the amendment in the nature of substitute?

6029 *Voice. Recognize yourself and yield to James.

6030 *The Chair. I will recognize myself to speak on the
6031 amendment, and I will yield to Mr. James from Michigan.

6032 *Mr. James. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that.

6033 Just so we are clear and we are laying the battlefield,
6034 the App Store Accountability Act holds big tech companies to
6035 the same standard as local corner stores. It protects the
6036 next generation by empowering parents and making clear that
6037 when it comes to safeguarding children no one gets a free
6038 pass.

6039 How many studies? How many congressional hearings do we
6040 need to know the status quo is broken? How many
6041 heartbreaking stories do we need to hear from parents? So
6042 many of us on this committee are parents ourselves. We see

6043 with our own eyes the threat that big tech poses to children
6044 every single day. Our nation's children deserve better, and
6045 we will act right now.

6046 Big tech is exploiting our laws as they continue to rake
6047 in billions of dollars in profit at the expense of our
6048 nation's children. Social media is not only addictive
6049 service for children, but it is also harmful to their mental
6050 acuity and overall health. Statistician Edward Tufte said
6051 there are only two industries that call their customers
6052 users: illegal drugs and software.

6053 As a father of three school-aged boys, the warning signs
6054 of social media's impact on kids are abundantly clear to me
6055 and to all parents. The App Store Accountability Act is the
6056 appropriate response to ensure that children are not
6057 accessing restricted material through online app stores, and
6058 it gives parents real control over what their kids can
6059 download.

6060 I am grateful for the positive feedback that I have
6061 received from so many over so long about this App Store
6062 Accountability Act. I am especially appreciative of Chair
6063 Bilirakis and Representative Houchin for cosponsoring the
6064 bill. And as Mr. Obernolte mentioned, he has been working
6065 closely with us to make it stronger.

6066 Just as brick-and-mortar stores are held responsible for
6067 selling age-restricted materials like tobacco and alcohol to

6068 minors, the App Store Accountability Act will hold digital
6069 app stores accountable for providing adult or age-restricted
6070 materials to minors as well. It is simple: kids cannot
6071 consent, and any company that exposes them to addictive or
6072 adult material should be held accountable. I repeat: kids
6073 cannot consent. We would never allow a bank or a car
6074 dealership to enter into binding agreements with 13 or 14-
6075 year-olds. Why are we allowing billion-dollar tech companies
6076 to do exactly the same thing? No one is above the law,
6077 especially big tech.

6078 I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will
6079 join the more than 4,500 parents and over 150 organizations
6080 across the country who have expressed their support for this
6081 App Store Accountability Act.

6082 And with that, Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding, and
6083 I yield back.

6084 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back to me
6085 and I will yield back. Is there further discussion on the
6086 amendment?

6087 Are there any other amendments to the bill?

6088 The gentleman from Massachusetts, for what purpose do
6089 you seek recognition?

6090 *Mr. Auchincloss. I do not seek recognition. When it
6091 is appropriate, I have an amendment at the desk.

6092 *The Chair. Do you have an amendment at the desk?

6093 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes.

6094 *The Chair. Okay. So the gentleman from Massachusetts
6095 has -- what amendment? Would you like to identify --

6096 *Mr. Auchincloss. Zero-thirty-one.

6097 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

6098 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
6099 a substitute to H.R. 3149 offered by Mr. Auchincloss of
6100 Massachusetts.

6101 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
6102 amendment is dispensed with.

6103 [The amendment of Mr. Auchincloss follows:]

6104

6105 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6106

6107 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Massachusetts is
6108 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

6109 *Mr. Auchincloss. Thank you, Chair.

6110 This amendment would strike the text of the App Store
6111 Accountability Act and replace it with my bipartisan bill,
6112 the Parents Over Platforms Act.

6113 Age assurance and verification is an important and
6114 necessary part of the kids online safety conversation. It is
6115 the legal and technical infrastructure for so much of what we
6116 want to do, and it is overdue. But the App Store
6117 Accountability Act is, regrettably, not the path forward on
6118 this issue, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill and
6119 support my amendment.

6120 The App Store Accountability Act falls short in a number
6121 of areas. First, it requires verification mechanisms that
6122 are too burdensome for users, and create unnecessary data
6123 privacy risks including biometric or government ID standards.
6124 Second, the bill is over-inclusive with regard to the types
6125 of applications required to receive an age signal from the
6126 App Store.

6127 So it would require every app, regardless of its content
6128 or purpose -- including weather apps, calculator apps -- to
6129 receive age signals from app stores and require parental
6130 consent for minors to download it. It would restrict minors
6131 from downloading apps for news, the weather, educational

6132 purpose, and other lower-risk categories. It basically
6133 creates a morass where parents and children, every time they
6134 download an app, every time they update that app are doing
6135 invasive age verification procedures that creates this
6136 scattershot compliance fatigue that actually ends up serving
6137 the purposes of the big tech companies because parents just
6138 throw up their hands.

6139 The bill, though, is also under-inclusive with regard to
6140 the types of app stores covered. It leaves out third-party
6141 app stores, as well as app stores for virtual reality and
6142 gaming platforms. Now, that is very convenient -- as I said,
6143 this is a Meta markup -- very convenient for Meta, which has
6144 pointed to its future as the Metaverse. Of course, they want
6145 to exempt virtual reality and gaming platforms because they
6146 don't want parents to know what is going on in there.
6147 Zuckerberg has already said that he wants to see kids have AI
6148 friends in the Metaverse.

6149 Lastly, and most importantly, this bill is just
6150 unconstitutional. In ruling against the Texas version of the
6151 App Store Accountability Act, a judge noted that it would
6152 severely restrict access to a "vast universe of speech
6153 protected by the First Amendment.'" As my colleague from
6154 Massachusetts said, laws that get struck down by the courts
6155 don't protect anybody.

6156 Now, my amendment, the bipartisan Parents Over Platforms

6157 Act, is the better approach. Its age assurance requirements
6158 are less burdensome for users and parents, and it poses far
6159 less privacy risks than the App Store Accountability Act.

6160 The way it works is, if you are a parent, you buy a
6161 phone for your child, you add your child's phone to the
6162 family account, you set your child's birthday, and that is
6163 it. Set and forget. Thereafter, every time your child
6164 downloads an app, if it is an app that creates either an age-
6165 gated or age-differentiated experience, that app is liable
6166 for actually providing that age-gated or age-differentiated
6167 experience. If it is a gambling app, for example, and you
6168 are under 18, you can't access it. If it is a social media
6169 app and you are under 13 -- or hopefully someday under 16 --
6170 you can't access it.

6171 But the parents don't have to play keep-up with the tech
6172 companies. They set that birthday one time, and the age
6173 assurance signal in a privacy-protective manner is sent up
6174 through the firmware layer to the App Store thereafter.

6175 It also properly scopes the definitions of both app
6176 stores and covered applications to address those over-
6177 inclusive and under-inclusive problems that I mentioned
6178 earlier so there is no loopholes for virtual reality and
6179 gaming that would benefit Meta.

6180 Finally, and unlike the App Store Accountability Act, my
6181 bill provide -- will survive strict scrutiny. It is a

6182 constitutional path forward on age verification so that we
6183 are not sitting here spinning our wheels in Congress just to
6184 have the courts strike it down. It does not restrict minors'
6185 access to the vast universe of speech by, for example,
6186 preventing them from accessing weather apps and news apps.

6187 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, to
6188 oppose the App Store Accountability Act, and I would ask the
6189 chairman for his commitment to continue working on these
6190 issues, as we have discussed.

6191 *The Chair. Thank you. I will -- I need to claim time
6192 -- I will claim time and -- well, this is a new amendment, so
6193 I don't have to --

6194 *Mr. Auchincloss. Mr. Chairman, I --

6195 *The Chair. But I will claim time, and then I will
6196 yield to you if that is okay.

6197 So yes, as we talked before, we are going to continue to
6198 work to make sure we have every level we can that we can come
6199 to agreement that our kids are protected. So I will agree.

6200 So I will yield to the gentleman from Michigan to speak
6201 on the amendment.

6202 *Mr. James. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6203 The deceptively-named Parents Over Platforms Act should
6204 be aptly named platforms over parents act. Specifically, the
6205 -- this bill, or this amendment, is unconstitutional. It
6206 only regulates apps that offer an age-differentiated

6207 experience. Another way to say it, it regulates content.
6208 The platforms over parents act is not a serious attempt at
6209 empowering parents and protecting kids. It is built for
6210 litigation.

6211 The App Store Accountability Act is constitutional.
6212 While my bill is inspired by laws in Utah and Texas, which
6213 have been challenged by big tech lobbyists, these are in
6214 their earliest stages of litigation already. We have already
6215 made meaningful changes to this bill to strengthen its
6216 constitutionality further, removing exceptions in this bill.

6217 And frankly, if you need any further endorsement, my
6218 bill is a clear choice of parents: 4,500 parents and over
6219 180 child safety organizations. Meanwhile, the platforms
6220 over parents act is supported by Google, Apple, and their
6221 trade associations.

6222 My bill requires privacy-preserving age verification at
6223 the App Store level, while the platforms over parents act
6224 relies largely on the antiquated self-reporting age method
6225 that has repeatedly failed to keep our children safe.

6226 My bill applies equally, equally across the board and
6227 fairly to all apps, providing consistent protections. The
6228 platforms over parents amendment only covers apps that
6229 provide a different experience for children and adults.
6230 This creates a disincentive for platforms to provide safer,
6231 age-appropriate experiences.

6232 Allowing children to enter into binding contracts with
6233 multi-billion-dollar corporations is the wrong answer.
6234 Children cannot consent. Can we all agree to that? And
6235 parents have a right to know. We should also be able to
6236 agree to that. This bill does both. Eighty-two percent of
6237 voters support the App Store Accountability Act, including
6238 eighty-five percent of parents.

6239 This bill transcends partisanship, and that is what I
6240 have heard all day: Put partisanship behind us and move
6241 forward in the best interests of our children. Seventy-seven
6242 percent of Democrats and ninety percent of Republicans agree
6243 with this. Eighty percent of independents agree with this
6244 bill. These are things that are common sense, it will
6245 survive scrutiny, and it is based upon the reality that we
6246 currently face.

6247 So again, Mr. Chairman, I am in opposition to this
6248 amendment. When parents grant consent to allow their kids to
6249 download an app, the bill puts the app on notice that they
6250 are dealing with a minor, all in privacy protective manners.
6251 By contrast, the platforms over parents act codifies the
6252 failed status quo, where kids click through self-declared age
6253 boxes to access apps without parental permission.

6254 I urge my colleagues again to reject this amendment and
6255 support the underlying bill.

6256 *The Chair. So it is back -- it is my time, and I can

6257 guarantee everybody in here that big tech, however you want
6258 to define it, is opposed to your bill. I can tell you that
6259 because I have -- we have all heard from them.

6260 So I will yield back, and is there further discussion?

6261 The gentleman from California is recognized for five
6262 minutes --

6263 *Dr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6264 *The Chair. -- to speak on the amendment.

6265 *Dr. Ruiz. I yield some time to Congressman
6266 Auchincloss.

6267 *Mr. Auchincloss. I appreciate it. A number of remarks
6268 in there that are inaccurate, number one being that kids
6269 themselves can swipe through the birth day and age assurance
6270 signal. That is just false. Parents are in the driver's
6271 seat on this.

6272 But the number-one thing I want to just zero in on,
6273 first of all, if this is a bipartisan approach, why is it not
6274 a bipartisan bill? It is a partisan bill. Whereas, my
6275 alternative is a bipartisan approach.

6276 But secondly, would the gentleman from Michigan care to
6277 comment about why his bill includes weather apps for
6278 intrusive age verification procedures but exempts virtual
6279 reality? Does the gentleman not think that virtual reality
6280 apps might pose a risk to youth online, and should in fact be
6281 subject to age signals, or does he trust that the Mark

6282 Zuckerberg Metaverse is going to be a place where kids can
6283 thrive without any parental oversight?

6284 *Mr. James. Mark Zuckerberg is a crook who should be
6285 held accountable.

6286 *Mr. Auchincloss. So why are you exempting -- why is
6287 the gentleman from Michigan exempting his Metaverse from this
6288 bill?

6289 *Mr. James. Because we are not exempting them from the
6290 bill.

6291 *Mr. Auchincloss. They are.

6292 *Mr. James. We are not exempting them from this bill.
6293 We are going to be working together to address that issue.

6294 *Mr. Auchincloss. Could I --

6295 *Mr. James. But one bill cannot -- it was asked, a
6296 question. I am answering it. The one bill cannot solve all
6297 the problems that have been broken by the status quo.

6298 *Mr. Auchincloss. I am going to reclaim my time.

6299 *Mr. James. Okay.

6300 *Mr. Auchincloss. Can I ask the counsel?

6301 Under this bill's -- the way this bill is drafted, does
6302 it create an exemption for third-party app stores that are
6303 virtual reality app stores? Does it cover virtual reality
6304 app stores?

6305 *Counsel. Sir, there is no definition of third-party
6306 app store or third-party service provider.

6307 *Mr. Auchincloss. I don't know what that answer means.
6308 What I can say is, and as the gentleman from Michigan
6309 affirmed because he said he was going to be working on this,
6310 is, as this bill is drafted, virtual reality apps are totally
6311 exempt, as are, by the way, sideloaded apps or website access
6312 or browser accessed apps. This is a Meta-sized loophole.
6313 They literally renamed the company Meta because they believe
6314 in the Metaverse, and they want every kid to be putting on an
6315 Oculus headset and go into the Metaverse and make AI bot
6316 friends, and that is Mr. Zuckerberg's ideal for a, you know,
6317 dystopian future for our children to grow up in. And that is
6318 why this is the preferred bill for Meta, because it exempts
6319 exactly their business model.

6320 My bill expressly prevents that from happening. It
6321 makes clear that, hey, if you want to download a weather app,
6322 that is fine. If you are trying to download Meta's online
6323 virtual reality app, that has to be liable for the age
6324 signal.

6325 I yield back to the gentleman from California.

6326 *Dr. Ruiz. Thank you, and I yield back.

6327 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
6328 further discussion of the amendment?

6329 The gentleman from Louisiana.

6330 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. You know, we keep going back
6331 and forth, whether it is this bill or others, and we are

6332 picking winners and losers, whether it is tech or trial
6333 lawyers. And again, neither are the culprit independently.

6334 Tech companies bring positive things to the table. But
6335 what we are attempting to do in haste is ignoring the voices
6336 of all the parents, of all the advocates. I again urge us to
6337 pump our brakes and let's get this right. To demonize either
6338 side is not wise. Technology, when applied appropriately, is
6339 not bad. In fact, it is very good. Tech companies by
6340 themselves are not bad. Loopholes are. Forgiving them for
6341 not tightening the loopholes and making sure that we are
6342 protecting our young people is bad. Moving hastily through
6343 these measures without carefully exploring all of the
6344 ramifications or, as we say in these bodies, unintended
6345 consequences.

6346 When we move too fast, when we ignore the voices of the
6347 victims, when we fail to look at the science, when we fail to
6348 work together, we clump everything together, the good, the
6349 bad, the ugly, and we move it forward for the sake of doing
6350 something. That is not smart. We need to be working with
6351 tech. We need to be working with advocates. We need to be
6352 working, Democrats and Republicans together, to not come up
6353 with a fast solution that fails, but a solid solution that
6354 encompasses all of the risk.

6355 Again, I ask my colleagues, pump the brakes and let's do
6356 this right. Not fast, not party-driven, not partisan, but

6357 right, inclusive, and secure.

6358 I yield.

6359 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
6360 further discussion?

6361 Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment. A roll
6362 call has been requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

6363 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6364 *Mr. Latta. No.

6365 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
6366 Mr. Griffith?

6367 [No response.]

6368 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

6369 [No response.]

6370 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

6371 [No response.]

6372 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

6373 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

6374 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

6375 Mr. Palmer?

6376 [No response.]

6377 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

6378 *Dr. Dunn. No.

6379 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

6380 Mr. Crenshaw?

6381 [No response.]

6382 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6383 *Mr. Joyce. No.
6384 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
6385 Mr. Weber?
6386 *Mr. Weber. No.
6387 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes no.
6388 Mr. Allen?
6389 [No response.]
6390 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
6391 *Mr. Balderson. No.
6392 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes no.
6393 Mr. Fulcher?
6394 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
6395 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
6396 Mr. Pfluger?
6397 [No response.]
6398 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
6399 *Mrs. Harshbarger. No.
6400 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes no.
6401 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6402 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. No.
6403 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes no.
6404 Mrs. Cammack?
6405 [No response.]
6406 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

6407 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
6408 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
6409 Mr. James?
6410 *Mr. James. No.
6411 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes no.
6412 Mr. Bentz?
6413 *Mr. Bentz. No.
6414 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes no.
6415 Mrs. Houchin?
6416 [No response.]
6417 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
6418 [No response.]
6419 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
6420 *Ms. Lee. No.
6421 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.
6422 Mr. Langworthy?
6423 [No response.]
6424 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
6425 *Mr. Kean. No.
6426 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
6427 Mr. Rulli?
6428 *Mr. Rulli. No.
6429 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes no.
6430 Mr. Evans?
6431 *Mr. Evans. No.

6432 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes no.
6433 Mr. Goldman?
6434 [No response.]
6435 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
6436 *Mr. Goldman. No.
6437 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
6438 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6439 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
6440 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
6441 Mr. Pallone?
6442 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6443 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6444 Ms. DeGette?
6445 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6446 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6447 Ms. Schakowsky?
6448 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6449 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6450 Ms. Matsui?
6451 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6452 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6453 Ms. Castor?
6454 [No response.]
6455 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?
6456 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

6457 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6458 Ms. Clarke?
6459 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
6460 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
6461 Mr. Ruiz?
6462 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6463 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6464 Mr. Peters?
6465 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6466 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6467 Mrs. Dingell?
6468 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
6469 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6470 Mr. Veasey?
6471 [No response.]
6472 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
6473 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
6474 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
6475 Ms. Barragan?
6476 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
6477 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6478 Mr. Soto?
6479 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
6480 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6481 Ms. Schrier?

6482 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6483 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6484 Mrs. Trahan?
6485 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
6486 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6487 Mrs. Fletcher?
6488 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6489 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
6490 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6491 [No response.]
6492 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?
6493 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
6494 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
6495 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6496 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
6497 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
6498 Mr. Menendez?
6499 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
6500 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
6501 Mr. Mullin?
6502 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
6503 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
6504 Mr. Landsman?
6505 [No response.]
6506 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan?

6507 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
6508 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
6509 Chairman Guthrie?
6510 *The Chair. No.
6511 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes no.
6512 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking -- Mr. Palmer?
6513 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.
6514 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.
6515 *The Chair. Mr. Griffith?
6516 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
6517 *Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes no.
6518 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
6519 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis?
6520 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
6521 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
6522 *The Chair. Mr. Langworthy?
6523 *Mr. Langworthy. No.
6524 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy --
6525 *The Chair. Oh, Mr. Allen? Mr. Allen?
6526 *Mr. Allen. Allen, no.
6527 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.
6528 *The Chair. Mr. Pfluger?
6529 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
6530 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
6531 *The Chair. Mr. Castor, or -- oh, Mr. Veasey?

6532 *Mr. Veasey. How is Mr. Veasey recorded?
6533 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.
6534 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes yes.
6535 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6536 *Voice. Mrs. Cammack.
6537 *The Chair. Mrs. Cammack?
6538 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack --
6539 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
6540 *The Clerk. -- votes no.
6541 *The Chair. Ms. Castor?
6542 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6543 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6544 *The Chair. Mr. Landsman?
6545 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman is not recorded.
6546 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
6547 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
6548 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking the roll call?
6549 The clerk will report.
6550 [Pause.]
6551 *The Chair. So we are going to go right into another
6552 roll call, so the clerk will report.
6553 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there are 23
6554 ayes and 26 noes.
6555 *The Chair. The amendment is not agreed to. Is there
6556 further amendments?

6557 If no further discussion, the vote occurs on the
6558 amendment in nature of a substitute. We are going to do the
6559 amendment, so it will be a voice vote.

6560 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

6561 All those no?

6562 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

6563 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 3149, as
6564 amended, and a roll call has been requested, and the clerk
6565 will call the roll.

6566 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6567 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

6568 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

6569 Mr. Griffith?

6570 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

6571 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

6572 Mr. Bilirakis?

6573 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

6574 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

6575 Mr. Hudson?

6576 [No response.]

6577 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

6578 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

6579 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

6580 Mr. Palmer?

6581 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

6582 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
6583 Mr. Dunn?
6584 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.
6585 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
6586 Mr. Crenshaw?
6587 [No response.]
6588 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6589 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
6590 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
6591 Mr. Weber?
6592 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
6593 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
6594 Mr. Allen?
6595 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
6596 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
6597 Mr. Balderson?
6598 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
6599 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
6600 Mr. Fulcher?
6601 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
6602 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
6603 Mr. Pfluger?
6604 [No response.]
6605 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
6606 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

6607 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
6608 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6609 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
6610 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
6611 Mrs. Cammack?
6612 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
6613 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
6614 Mr. Obernolte?
6615 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
6616 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
6617 Mr. James?
6618 *Mr. James. Aye.
6619 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
6620 Mr. Bentz?
6621 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
6622 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
6623 Mrs. Houchin?
6624 [No response.]
6625 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
6626 [No response.]
6627 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
6628 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
6629 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
6630 Mr. Langworthy?
6631 [No response.]

6632 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
6633 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
6634 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
6635 Mr. Rulli?
6636 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
6637 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
6638 Mr. Evans?
6639 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
6640 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
6641 Mr. Goldman?
6642 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
6643 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
6644 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6645 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
6646 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
6647 Mr. Pallone?
6648 *Mr. Pallone. No.
6649 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.
6650 Ms. DeGette?
6651 [No response.]
6652 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette?
6653 *Ms. DeGette. No.
6654 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes no.
6655 Ms. Schakowsky?
6656 *Ms. Schakowsky. No.

6657 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes no.
6658 Ms. Matsui?
6659 *Ms. Matsui. No.
6660 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
6661 Ms. Castor?
6662 *Ms. Castor. No.
6663 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.
6664 Mr. Tonko?
6665 *Mr. Tonko. No.
6666 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes no.
6667 Ms. Clarke?
6668 *Ms. Clarke. No.
6669 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
6670 Mr. Ruiz?
6671 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
6672 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
6673 Mr. Peters?
6674 *Mr. Peters. No.
6675 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
6676 Mrs. Dingell?
6677 *Mrs. Dingell. No.
6678 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.
6679 Mr. Veasey?
6680 [No response.]
6681 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?

6682 *Ms. Kelly. No.
6683 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes no.
6684 Ms. Barragan?
6685 *Ms. Barragan. No.
6686 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
6687 Mr. Soto?
6688 *Mr. Soto. No.
6689 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.
6690 Ms. Schrier?
6691 *Ms. Schrier. No.
6692 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes no.
6693 Mrs. Trahan?
6694 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
6695 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes no.
6696 Mrs. Fletcher?
6697 *Mrs. Fletcher. No.
6698 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes no.
6699 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
6700 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. No.
6701 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes no.
6702 Mr. Auchincloss?
6703 *Mr. Auchincloss. No.
6704 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes no.
6705 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
6706 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.

6707 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes no.
6708 Mr. Menendez?
6709 [No response.]
6710 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
6711 *Mr. Menendez. No.
6712 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.
6713 Mr. Mullin?
6714 *Mr. Mullin. No.
6715 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
6716 Mr. Landsman?
6717 *Mr. Landsman. No.
6718 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.
6719 Ms. McClellan?
6720 *Ms. McClellan. No.
6721 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.
6722 Chairman Guthrie?
6723 *The Chair. Aye.
6724 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
6725 *The Chair. Mr. Pfluger?
6726 *Mr. Pfluger. Yes.
6727 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
6728 *The Chair. Mrs. Houchin?
6729 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
6730 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
6731 [Pause.]

6732 *Voice. We don't know where Fry or Langworthy are.

6733 *Voice. I mean, what you all need to do is tell your
6734 members to get their butts in their seats so that we don't
6735 have to do this, so we can be done in 45 minutes.

6736 *Voice. I know. Just go. Call it.

6737 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

6738 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there are 26
6739 ayes and 23 noes.

6740 *The Chair. The ayes have it and the bill is adopted.

6741 All right, I want to make an announcement, everyone,
6742 about the next agenda item. I want to thank everyone today
6743 for their passion and engagement. And as I said as I
6744 started, all of us want to protect kids. All of us want to
6745 protect kids.

6746 Since we have been here today our staffs have continued
6747 to work toward a bipartisan agreement, and both sides feel
6748 there has been substantial progress towards a path forward.
6749 To that end I have decided that we will not consider COPPA
6750 today, and our staffs will continue to work in the coming
6751 days. And I really appreciate my friend from New Jersey and
6752 our staffs and our ongoing efforts to protect kids online.

6753 So we will now move to the energy bills. So thanks for
6754 -- I know the gentlelady from Florida pointed out what
6755 happened this morning in the Senate, and we appreciate that.
6756 So we will move to the energy bills.

6757 Now I said this, votes will be in 45 minutes. The
6758 energy bills -- there are five bills, and my understanding is
6759 they have all been agreed to. So let's take that under -- if
6760 we don't get it done in -- by votes, we will have to come
6761 back.

6762 So the chair calls up H.R. 7258, and asks the clerk to
6763 report.

6764 *The Clerk. H.R. 7258, a bill to amend the Department
6765 of Energy Organization Act.

6766 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
6767 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
6768 amendment at any point.

6769 So ordered.

6770 [The bill follows:]

6771

6772 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6773

6774 *The Chair. Does anybody seek to be recognized on the
6775 bill?

6776 The gentlelady from Florida, you are recognized for five
6777 minutes to speak on the --

6778 *Voice. Ask for order.

6779 *Ms. Lee. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

6780 *The Chair. Can we get order in the room, please?

6781 Order in the room. Thank you.

6782 All right, the gentlelady from Florida, you are
6783 recognized to speak on the bill.

6784 *Ms. Lee. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to lead H.R. 7258,
6785 the Energy Emergency Leadership Act.

6786 *The Chair. The gentlelady will suspend. Let's have
6787 order in the room. I know we have kind of switched quickly,
6788 but if we can do it quietly so -- the gentlelady has the
6789 right to be heard. The gentlelady is recognized.

6790 *Ms. Lee. I am proud to lead H.R. 7258, the Energy
6791 Emergency Leadership Act, alongside my friend, Mr. Landsman
6792 from Ohio.

6793 I also want to thank Mr. Walberg of Michigan and Mr.
6794 Balderson of Ohio for their cosponsorship, as well as
6795 Chairman Guthrie for including it in today's markup.

6796 In February H.R. 7258 passed out of the Subcommittee on
6797 Energy by unanimous consent. The bill was passed by
6798 unanimous consent because both sides of the aisle understand

6799 how important it is to ensure transparency by those who are
6800 defending our electric grid.

6801 Today the United States is experiencing record high
6802 energy demand driven by rapid advances in artificial
6803 intelligence and data centers, renewed domestic
6804 manufacturing, and widespread electrification across our
6805 economy. Meeting this demand safely and reliably requires
6806 not only robust generation capacity, but also a secure and
6807 resilient electric grid.

6808 At the same time, our electric grid faces an
6809 increasingly complex threat landscape. State-sponsored cyber
6810 threats like Volt Typhoon have actively targeted the U.S.
6811 critical infrastructure, including our electric grid. These
6812 are real and ongoing threats from foreign adversaries seeking
6813 to undermine our national security and economic stability.

6814 In recent years we have also seen a significant rise in
6815 physical attacks on our electric grid such as deliberate acts
6816 of vandalism and sabotage. And for those of us from Florida,
6817 the need for strong energy emergency leadership is not
6818 theoretical; it is something we see firsthand after major
6819 hurricanes like Ian and Irma. Millions of Americans can lose
6820 power overnight.

6821 Rapid coordination between Federal Government,
6822 utilities, and state emergency officials becomes essential to
6823 restoring electricity and protecting public safety. That is

6824 why H.R. 7258, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, is so
6825 important. This legislation strengthens accountability
6826 within the Department of Energy by ensuring that the
6827 department's energy emergency and cybersecurity
6828 responsibilities are led by a Senate-confirmed assistant
6829 secretary. Establishing this leadership in statute ensures
6830 that energy security receives the sustained focus it
6831 deserves.

6832 By elevating this role, the Energy Emergency Leadership
6833 Act will ensure the department has the focused and
6834 accountable leadership to better protect the public from fuel
6835 and electricity supply disruptions against all hazards,
6836 whether natural or man-made, including emerging threats from
6837 our foreign adversaries to the electric grid. This bill will
6838 ensure the department carries out its responsibilities by
6839 improving coordination, ensuring more effective interagency
6840 collaborations, and increasing accountability to Congress.

6841 At the end of the day, this is a practical and
6842 bipartisan solution. It doesn't create new bureaucracy. It
6843 simply ensures that when an energy emergency happens, there
6844 is clear leadership responsible for coordinating the Federal
6845 response and protecting the reliability of our energy system.

6846 I thank my colleagues and cosponsors for their support,
6847 and I urge members of this committee to support H.R. 7258 and
6848 advance our nation's ability to protect its energy future.

6849 Thank you, and I yield back.

6850 *Mr. Griffith. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields back.

6851 Do we have anyone else?

6852 Mr. Landsman of Ohio.

6853 *Mr. Landsman. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

6854 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman is recognized.

6855 *Mr. Landsman. I move to strike the last word in
6856 support of the Energy Emergency Leadership Act.

6857 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman is still recognized.

6858 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you. The bill, as my colleague
6859 mentioned, is a bipartisan effort to amend the Department of
6860 Energy Organization Act to ensure that the functions of what
6861 is now the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and
6862 Emergency Response are assigned to one of DoE's eight
6863 assistant secretaries.

6864 As threats to our critical infrastructure continue to
6865 grow, this legislation takes an important step toward
6866 protecting our communities and maintaining reliable energy
6867 delivery. For these reasons I support the legislation and
6868 encourage my colleagues to do the same.

6869 I yield back.

6870 *Mr. Griffith. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
6871 further discussion on the bill?

6872 Seeing none, the vote now occurs on the bill. And since
6873 it is final passage, we will have a roll call vote. The

6874 clerk will call the roll.

6875 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

6876 [No response.]

6877 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?

6878 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes. Aye.

6879 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

6880 Mr. Griffith?

6881 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

6882 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

6883 Mr. Hudson?

6884 [No response.]

6885 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

6886 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

6887 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

6888 Mr. Palmer?

6889 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

6890 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

6891 Mr. Dunn?

6892 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.

6893 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

6894 Mr. Crenshaw?

6895 [No response.]

6896 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

6897 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

6898 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

6899 Mr. Weber?
6900 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
6901 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
6902 Mr. Allen?
6903 [No response.]
6904 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
6905 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
6906 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
6907 Mr. Fulcher?
6908 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
6909 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
6910 Mr. Pfluger?
6911 [No response.]
6912 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
6913 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
6914 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
6915 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
6916 [No response.]
6917 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?
6918 [No response.]
6919 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
6920 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
6921 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
6922 Mr. James?
6923 *Mr. James. Aye.

6924 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
6925 Mr. Bentz?
6926 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
6927 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
6928 Mrs. Houchin?
6929 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
6930 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
6931 Mr. Fry?
6932 [No response.]
6933 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
6934 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
6935 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
6936 Mr. Langworthy?
6937 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
6938 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
6939 Mr. Kean?
6940 [No response.]
6941 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
6942 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
6943 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
6944 Mr. Evans?
6945 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
6946 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
6947 Mr. Goldman?
6948 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

6949 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
6950 Mrs. Fedorchak?
6951 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
6952 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
6953 Mr. Pallone?
6954 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
6955 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
6956 Ms. DeGette?
6957 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
6958 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
6959 Ms. Schakowsky?
6960 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
6961 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6962 Ms. Matsui?
6963 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
6964 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6965 Ms. Castor?
6966 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6967 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6968 Mr. Tonko?
6969 [No response.]
6970 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?
6971 [No response.]
6972 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?
6973 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

6974 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
6975 Mr. Ruiz?
6976 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6977 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6978 Mr. Peters?
6979 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
6980 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6981 Mrs. Dingell?
6982 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
6983 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6984 Mr. Veasey?
6985 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
6986 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6987 Ms. Kelly?
6988 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
6989 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
6990 Ms. Barragan?
6991 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
6992 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6993 Mr. Soto?
6994 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
6995 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6996 Ms. Schrier?
6997 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
6998 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

6999 Mrs. Trahan?
7000 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
7001 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7002 Mrs. Fletcher?
7003 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7004 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7005 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
7006 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
7007 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
7008 Mr. Auchincloss?
7009 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
7010 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
7011 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
7012 [No response.]
7013 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?
7014 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
7015 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
7016 Mr. Mullin?
7017 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
7018 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
7019 Mr. Landsman?
7020 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
7021 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
7022 Ms. McClellan?
7023 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

7024 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
7025 Chairman Guthrie?
7026 *The Chair. Aye.
7027 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.
7028 *Mr. Griffith. All right. Who is unrecorded?
7029 Mr. Hudson?
7030 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.
7031 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
7032 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Latta?
7033 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
7034 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
7035 *Mr. Griffith. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7036 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Votes aye.
7037 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
7038 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Allen?
7039 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
7040 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
7041 *Mr. Griffith. Mrs. Cammack?
7042 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
7043 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7044 *Mr. Tonko. Chairman?
7045 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Tonko?
7046 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko is not recorded.
7047 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7048 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

7049 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

7050 *Mr. Griffith. Anybody else that I have missed?

7051 Mr. Carter?

7052 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. How am I recorded?

7053 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana is not recorded.

7054 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No.

7055 *Voice. Yes.

7056 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Yes.

7057 [Laughter.]

7058 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7059 *Mr. Griffith. All right. Seeing nobody else, the

7060 clerk will report the roll.

7061 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 50

7062 ayes and 0 noes.

7063 *Mr. Griffith. Fifty ayes, zero noes, the bill is

7064 recommended for the floor.

7065 [Pause.]

7066 *Mr. Griffith. The chair calls up H.R. 7266, and asks

7067 the clerk to report.

7068 *The Clerk. H.R. 7266, a bill to amend the

7069 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the

7070 Rural and Municipality --

7071 *Mr. Griffith. Without objection, the first reading of

7072 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

7073 amendment at any time.

7074 So ordered.

7075 [The bill follows:]

7076

7077 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7078

7079 *Mr. Griffith. Mrs. Miller-Meeks is recognized for five
7080 minutes to speak on her bill.

7081 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7082 My legislation, the Rural and Municipal Utility
7083 Cybersecurity Act, which I am proud to lead with
7084 Congresswoman McClellan, is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize
7085 and strengthen a critical program that helps rural and
7086 municipal electric utilities defend against growing
7087 cybersecurity threats to our nation's energy grid.

7088 As cyber attacks on critical infrastructure become more
7089 sophisticated and frequent, this bill ensures rural electric
7090 cooperatives, public power, and other utilities have access
7091 to advanced cybersecurity tools, technical assistance, and
7092 grant funding to protect, detect, respond to, and recover
7093 from cyber threats.

7094 In Iowa's 1st district rural electric cooperatives serve
7095 ratepayers across 20 counties and face the same threats as
7096 major metropolitan systems, but with fewer resources. This
7097 legislation simply reauthorizes the Rural and Municipal
7098 Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance
7099 Program, and authorizes \$250 over --- \$250 million over 5
7100 years to deploy advanced cybersecurity technologies and
7101 support participation in information-sharing programs.

7102 At a time when cybersecurity attacks on our critical
7103 infrastructure are escalating and we have not yet authorized

7104 an appropriations bill for DHS, small and rural utilities
7105 need resources to defend against nation-state actors and
7106 sophisticated threats. This bill provides that support.

7107 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, Mr.
7108 Chairman, I yield back.

7109 *Mr. Griffith. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone
7110 else wishing to be recognized?

7111 I recognize the gentlelady from Virginia for her five
7112 minutes to speak on the bill.

7113 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7114 The Rural Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act represents
7115 the sort of bipartisan work that is important for the
7116 security and stability of the American grid and the safety of
7117 the American people.

7118 This bill reauthorizes the RMUC program, a vital program
7119 that helps rural and small municipal utilities protect
7120 themselves against an ever-multiplying number of
7121 cybersecurity threats that could prove severely disruptive to
7122 these communities which are too often under-resourced and
7123 lack the support necessary to defend against malign actors
7124 targeting important infrastructure services. This bill will
7125 fill those gaps and ensure rural and small municipal
7126 communities can face the challenges of our increasingly
7127 digital and interconnected world.

7128 And by hardening some of the most vulnerable targets in

7129 our power system, the bill will bolster our cybersecurity
7130 defenses for the entire nation's grid and also strengthen the
7131 RMUC program by allowing the Department of Energy additional
7132 flexibility in the way that it structures technical
7133 assistance and financial awards, allowing small utilities and
7134 cooperatives even greater access.

7135 I want to thank my colleague from Iowa, Mrs. Miller-
7136 Meeks, to work -- for working together to advance this bill,
7137 and I urge my colleagues to support this important
7138 legislation.

7139 I yield back.

7140 *The Chair. [Presiding.] The gentlelady yields back,
7141 and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Dr. Joyce, is recognized
7142 for five minutes.

7143 *Dr. Joyce. I wish to speak in support of the bill, Mr.
7144 Chairman.

7145 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7146 *Dr. Joyce. As we work to address the issue of
7147 cybersecurity for our critical infrastructure, it is
7148 important that we ensure that smaller communities are not
7149 left behind. To that end I am glad to see H.R. 7266, the
7150 Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act, under
7151 consideration today. This bill will help close the resource
7152 gap, allowing smaller utilities and rural electric co-ops to
7153 protect themselves against cybersecurity threats. This is an

7154 incredibly important issue.

7155 I applaud my colleagues, Representative Miller-Meeks and
7156 Representative McClellan, for their work on this bipartisan
7157 legislation, and thank Chairman Guthrie for including this
7158 bill in our markup today.

7159 Electrons do not flow solely to one party or another.
7160 And in the true tradition of Energy and Commerce on both
7161 sides of the aisle, this is bipartisan legislation. I urge
7162 my colleagues to support this necessary piece of legislation.

7163 And with that I yield back.

7164 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
7165 further discussion?

7166 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting 7266 --
7167 it was amended, right?

7168 *Voice. No.

7169 *The Chair. All in favor -- all -- wait, we have -- a
7170 roll call has been requested, and the clerk will call the
7171 roll.

7172 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7173 [No response.]

7174 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

7175 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

7176 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

7177 Mr. Bilirakis?

7178 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

7179 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
7180 Mr. Hudson?
7181 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
7182 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
7183 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
7184 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
7185 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
7186 Mr. Palmer?
7187 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
7188 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
7189 Mr. Dunn?
7190 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.
7191 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
7192 Mr. Crenshaw?
7193 [No response.]
7194 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
7195 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
7196 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
7197 Mr. Weber?
7198 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
7199 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
7200 Mr. Allen?
7201 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
7202 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
7203 Mr. Balderson?

7204 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

7205 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

7206 Mr. Fulcher?

7207 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

7208 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

7209 Mr. Pfluger?

7210 [No response.]

7211 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?

7212 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Yes.

7213 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

7214 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

7215 [No response.]

7216 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

7217 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.

7218 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

7219 Mrs. Cammack?

7220 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

7221 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

7222 Mr. Obernolte?

7223 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

7224 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

7225 Mr. James?

7226 *Mr. James. Aye.

7227 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

7228 Mr. Bentz?

7229 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.

7230 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.

7231 Mrs. Houchin?

7232 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.

7233 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

7234 Mr. Fry?

7235 [No response.]

7236 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?

7237 *Ms. Lee. Aye.

7238 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.

7239 Mr. Langworthy?

7240 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.

7241 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

7242 Mr. Kean?

7243 [No response.]

7244 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?

7245 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.

7246 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.

7247 Mr. Evans?

7248 *Mr. Evans. Aye.

7249 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.

7250 Mr. Goldman?

7251 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

7252 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

7253 Mrs. Fedorchak?

7254 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

7255 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

7256 Mr. Pallone?

7257 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

7258 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

7259 Ms. DeGette?

7260 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

7261 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

7262 Ms. Schakowsky?

7263 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

7264 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

7265 Ms. Matsui?

7266 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

7267 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

7268 Ms. Castor?

7269 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

7270 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

7271 Mr. Tonko?

7272 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

7273 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

7274 Ms. Clarke?

7275 [No response.]

7276 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

7277 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

7278 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

7279 Mr. Peters?

7280 [No response.]

7281 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

7282 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

7283 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

7284 Mr. Veasey?

7285 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

7286 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

7287 Ms. Kelly?

7288 [No response.]

7289 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

7290 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

7291 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

7292 Mr. Soto?

7293 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

7294 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

7295 Ms. Schrier?

7296 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

7297 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

7298 Mrs. Trahan?

7299 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

7300 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

7301 Mrs. Fletcher?

7302 [No response.]

7303 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7304 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

7305 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

7306 Mr. Auchincloss?

7307 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

7308 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

7309 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7310 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7311 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7312 Mr. Menendez?

7313 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

7314 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

7315 Mr. Mullin?

7316 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

7317 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

7318 Mr. Landsman?

7319 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

7320 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

7321 Ms. McClellan?

7322 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

7323 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

7324 Chairman Guthrie?

7325 *The Chair. Aye.

7326 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

7327 *The Chair. Mr. Latta?

7328 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

7329 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7330 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?

7331 *Mr. Kean. Aye.

7332 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

7333 *The Chair. Ms. Clarke?

7334 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke is not recorded.

7335 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

7336 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

7337 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking to call the -- enter

7338 the roll?

7339 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

7340 [Pause.]

7341 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 48

7342 ayes and 0 noes.

7343 *The Chair. The bill -- I have not called the bill.

7344 How is Mrs. Fletcher recorded?

7345 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher --

7346 *The Chair. Just in time.

7347 *The Clerk. -- is not recorded.

7348 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher is an aye.

7349 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

7350 *The Chair. So the clerk will report.

7351 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 49

7352 ayes and 0 noes.

7353 *The Chair. The bill is adopted.

7354 So the chair calls up 7257, and asks the clerk to
7355 report.

7356 *The Clerk. H.R. 7257, a bill to amend the Energy
7357 Policy --

7358 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7359 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
7360 amendment at any point.

7361 So ordered.

7362 [The bill follows:]

7363

7364 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7365

7366 *The Chair. Does anybody seek to be recognized on the
7367 bill?

7368 Mr. Latta, for what purpose does the gentleman from Ohio
7369 seek recognition?

7370 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Speaker -- or Mr. Chairman, I move to
7371 speak in support of H.R. 7257.

7372 *The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to
7373 speak on the bill.

7374 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

7375 The SECURE Grid Act, which I have sponsored with my good
7376 friend, the gentlelady from California's 7th district (sic).

7377 State Energy Security Plans, or SESP, formalized
7378 through amendments to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act
7379 in 2021 ensure states are methodically accounting for
7380 potential threats and vulnerabilities in their respective
7381 energy networks. These plans allow states to work with DoE
7382 and private-sector partners to put processes in place for
7383 threat mitigation, as well as response efforts in the event
7384 of disruption to energy supplies.

7385 While the initial exercise of SESP program have
7386 meaningfully assisted states in securing energy systems,
7387 there is room for improvement to enhance their visibility
7388 into consider disparate threats facing the sector. H.R. 7257
7389 improves the state energy security planning process by taking
7390 a more holistic approach to the potential threats and

7391 solutions for more resilient critical infrastructure.

7392 Throughout the 119th Congress this committee has held
7393 several hearings with experts and administration officials to
7394 examine the state of our nation's energy systems. We know
7395 that every day lives of Americans and businesses are wholly
7396 reliant on a secure, reliable, and affordable energy system.
7397 We also know adversarial nations and nefarious actors are
7398 acting -- actively seeking out vulnerability in our
7399 interconnected energy infrastructure to sow chaos and cause
7400 harm to everyday Americans.

7401 Given the decisive action taken by the Trump
7402 Administration to address security threats in Iran, the need
7403 for cohesive SESP is even more necessary. Strong SESP
7404 require proactive information-sharing on threat analysis,
7405 constant vigilance, and clear visibility into the widening
7406 threat landscape. Through State Energy Security Plans, state
7407 energy offices and their governors can put processes in place
7408 to detect, mitigate, and respond to potential attacks
7409 targeting critical infrastructure. This legislation would
7410 advance that approach by ensuring states consider the
7411 security and resilience of local distribution systems, as
7412 well as incorporating the expertise of grid component
7413 manufacturers and suppliers.

7414 H.R. 7257 also incorporates language to ensure that
7415 governors remain ultimately responsible for the approval of

7416 their own State Energy Security Plans. Given the states'
7417 authorities and understandings of how their own energy
7418 systems work, it is imperative that they are empowered to
7419 develop their own plans while working collaboratively with
7420 Federal partners. This legislation is another important step
7421 to securing our economic future and keeping the lights on for
7422 all Americans.

7423 And, Mr. Chairman, there will be an amendment that will
7424 be offered by the gentlelady from the 7th district. And in
7425 the interest of time I am just going to ask my colleagues to
7426 support that amendment.

7427 And I yield back.

7428 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
7429 from California, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

7430 *Ms. Matsui. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at
7431 the desk.

7432 *The Chair. The clerk will report. Identify the
7433 amendment. Is it in the nature of a substitute?

7434 *Ms. Matsui. It is labeled FC_MA_HR7257_01.

7435 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

7436 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 7257 offered --

7437 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
7438 amendment is dispensed with.

7439

7440

7441 [The amendment of Ms. Matsui follows:]

7442

7443 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7444

7445 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from California is
7446 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

7447 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7448 This amendment makes minor but important changes
7449 strengthening DoE's technical assistance program, clarifying
7450 the exploration provision, and requiring GAO to evaluate the
7451 effectiveness of the program before the next reauthorization.

7452 Some of the most devastating wildfires in California's
7453 history have been sparked by aging or unsecured power
7454 infrastructure, including the Eaton Fire in Los Angeles. At
7455 the same time, prolonged heat waves can stretch the
7456 California grid to the limit. Droughts can also reduce
7457 hydropower generation across the West, further straining our
7458 grid, and winter storms bring torrential rains that can flood
7459 substations and take out power lines.

7460 There are solutions. We have to invest in our electric
7461 grid. It takes planning and preparation, and we need Federal
7462 support and coordination across states and with the Federal
7463 Government. That is why I am proud to work with Chairman
7464 Latta on the SECURE Grid Act.

7465 The SECURE Grid Act provides Federal funding for states
7466 to develop and implement energy security plans, working with
7467 the Department of Energy and the National Labs to identify,
7468 assess, and address any risks to electric grid and make plans
7469 for grid emergencies.

7470 And this just isn't about Resiliency. Disruptions to
7471 the grid are costly. Wildfires are the primary driver around
7472 California's high electricity rates. A more secure grid can
7473 bring down costs for everyone.

7474 So I urge my colleagues to support this bill and I yield
7475 back the balance of my time.

7476 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
7477 further discussion on the amendment?

7478 Seeing none, the question occurs on the adoption of the
7479 amendment in the nature of a substitute.

7480 All in favor will say aye.

7481 All opposed, no.

7482 The ayes have it.

7483 The question now occurs when adopting H.R. 7257, as
7484 amended, and a roll call has been requested, and the clerk
7485 will call the roll.

7486 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7487 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7488 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

7489 Mr. Griffith?

7490 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

7491 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

7492 Mr. Bilirakis?

7493 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

7494 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

7495 Mr. Hudson?

7496 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

7497 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

7498 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

7499 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

7500 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

7501 Mr. Palmer?

7502 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

7503 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

7504 Mr. Dunn?

7505 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.

7506 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

7507 Mr. Crenshaw?

7508 [No response.]

7509 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

7510 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

7511 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

7512 Mr. Weber?

7513 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

7514 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

7515 Mr. Allen?

7516 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

7517 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

7518 Mr. Balderson?

7519 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

7520 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
7521 Mr. Fulcher?
7522 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
7523 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
7524 Mr. Pfluger?
7525 [No response.]
7526 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
7527 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Yes.
7528 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
7529 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7530 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
7531 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
7532 Mrs. Cammack?
7533 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
7534 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7535 Mr. Obernolte?
7536 [No response.]
7537 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
7538 *Mr. James. Aye.
7539 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
7540 Mr. Bentz?
7541 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
7542 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
7543 Mrs. Houchin?
7544 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.

7545 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
7546 Mr. Fry?
7547 [No response.]
7548 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7549 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
7550 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
7551 Mr. Langworthy?
7552 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
7553 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
7554 Mr. Kean?
7555 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
7556 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
7557 Mr. Rulli?
7558 [No response.]
7559 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
7560 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
7561 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
7562 Mr. Goldman?
7563 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
7564 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
7565 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7566 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
7567 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
7568 Mr. Pallone?
7569 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

7570 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
7571 Ms. DeGette?
7572 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7573 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7574 Ms. Schakowsky?
7575 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
7576 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7577 Ms. Matsui?
7578 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
7579 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7580 Ms. Castor?
7581 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7582 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7583 Mr. Tonko?
7584 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7585 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7586 Ms. Clarke?
7587 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
7588 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7589 Mr. Ruiz?
7590 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7591 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7592 Mr. Peters?
7593 [No response.]
7594 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

7595 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
7596 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
7597 Mr. Veasey?
7598 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
7599 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7600 Ms. Kelly?
7601 [No response.]
7602 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
7603 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7604 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7605 Mr. Soto?
7606 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7607 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7608 Ms. Schrier?
7609 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
7610 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7611 Mrs. Trahan?
7612 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
7613 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7614 Mrs. Fletcher?
7615 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7616 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7617 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
7618 [No response.]
7619 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss?

7620 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

7621 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

7622 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7623 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7624 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7625 Mr. Menendez?

7626 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

7627 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

7628 Mr. Mullin?

7629 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

7630 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

7631 Mr. Landsman?

7632 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

7633 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

7634 Ms. McClellan?

7635 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

7636 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

7637 Chairman Guthrie?

7638 *The Chair. Aye.

7639 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

7640 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to answer the roll call,

7641 anyone seeking to answer the roll call?

7642 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, how is she recorded?

7643 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez is not recorded.

7644 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

7645 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

7646 *The Chair. Does anyone else seek the roll call?

7647 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

7648 [Pause.]

7649 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 47
7650 ayes and 0 noes.

7651 *The Chair. The bill is adopted. The chair calls up
7652 H.R. 7272, and asks the clerk to report.

7653 *The Clerk. H.R. 7272, a bill to require the Secretary
7654 of --

7655 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
7656 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
7657 amendment at any point.

7658 So ordered.

7659 [The bill follows:]

7660

7661 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7662

7663 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to --

7664 *Mr. Weber. Mr. Chairman?

7665 *The Chair. -- be recognized on the bill?

7666 Mr. Weber, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

7667 *Mr. Weber. I strike to seek the last word.

7668 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

7669 [Laughter.]

7670 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7671 I want to thank my friend from Michigan, Representative
7672 Dingell, for co-leading H.R. 7272, the Pipeline Cybersecurity
7673 Preparedness Act, which unanimously passed through the Energy
7674 Subcommittee in February.

7675 The Department of Energy currently serves as the
7676 government's energy sector lead, coordinating efforts across
7677 energy infrastructure owners and operators, states, and
7678 Federal agencies. In this role DoE maintains visibility
7679 across the entire energy value chains, an essential part of
7680 its mission, while providing the technical expertise
7681 necessary to coordinate security and hazards response across
7682 the sector.

7683 As the threats landscape evolves, cyber attacks on the
7684 U.S. systems from adversarial nations and rogue actors alike
7685 are on the rise. Given the unique risks that cyber threats
7686 pose to our energy infrastructure, we must strengthen
7687 information-sharing and coordination practices in law, and we

7688 must do so quickly. That is why it is critical to advance
7689 H.R. 7272. This bill would improve how the DoE works with
7690 others in the energy sector to ensure the security and
7691 resilience of pipelines and LNG facilities that our nation
7692 depends upon for the reliable supply of fuels as well as
7693 electricity.

7694 Mr. Chairman, this bill leverages the department's vast
7695 technical capabilities to develop a program that improves the
7696 coordination and technical support needed to ensure timely,
7697 efficient, and effective efforts to secure our energy systems
7698 and response to disruptions.

7699 As I said in the committee's subcommittee markup, let me
7700 be crystal clear. H.R. 7272 does not create a regulatory
7701 program or authorize one. Collaboration with agencies like
7702 the Transportation Security Administration and utilizing
7703 their expertise will remain key. However, it is important to
7704 remember that the Department of Energy retains responsibility
7705 over the whole energy and power sector. It also already
7706 leads Federal coordination on this very front.

7707 For any American watching this today, an attack on our
7708 infrastructure is not merely a hypothetical scenario, and the
7709 impacts would not be isolated. An attack on a pipeline in
7710 Texas can be felt in Virginia at the gas pump. We
7711 experienced this firsthand when many gas stations along the
7712 eastern seaboard quite literally ran out of fuel in the

7713 aftermath of the Colonial Pipeline cyber attack. In the wake
7714 of a cyber attack, Mr. Chairman, we need a direct, cohesive,
7715 whole-of-government response to cut through the chaos. And
7716 there is no better entity to lead that effort than the DoE.

7717 With that, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote for
7718 it, and I yield back.

7719 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
7720 further discussion?

7721 The gentlelady from Michigan, you are recognized to
7722 speak on the bill.

7723 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7724 I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Mr. Weber, for
7725 his leadership on H.R. 7272, and I am proud to co-lead it,
7726 this bipartisan legislation, with him. This bill builds on
7727 the longstanding work this committee has done to strengthen
7728 coordination across our energy sector and ensure we are
7729 prepared to address evolving cyber and physical threats to
7730 our infrastructure.

7731 Cyber threats to our energy infrastructure are real,
7732 growing, and require action now, especially when it comes to
7733 protecting the pipelines that power our homes, businesses,
7734 manufacturers, and communities. It is important we act
7735 decisively to safeguard our critical infrastructure and
7736 national security to protect our pipelines from cybersecurity
7737 threats.

7738 By law DoE serves as the energy sector risk management
7739 agency. Only DoE has the expertise, the relationships, and
7740 the ability to protect our pipeline systems. We have to
7741 ensure can participate thoroughly in pipeline cyber defense
7742 (sic). Our bipartisan legislation would strengthen the DoE's
7743 role in our pipeline cybersecurity and ensure that its
7744 experts are empowered to fully engage in Federal coordination
7745 and work with industry to secure our pipelines.

7746 We must act decisively. I urge my colleagues to support
7747 H.R. 7272, and I thank Congressman Weber for his leadership.

7748 Thank you. I yield back.

7749 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
7750 further discussion?

7751 Seeing none -- oh, I am sorry, Mr. Carter from
7752 Louisiana, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

7753 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
7754 represent Louisiana, home to one of the most robust pipeline
7755 networks in the country. And many of these pipelines run
7756 close to population centers. That makes them not only vital
7757 arteries for energy delivery, but also potential targets
7758 that, if disrupted, can put our communities and economics at
7759 dire risk.

7760 The 2021 Colonial Pipeline cyber attack demonstrated how
7761 a single incident can have a ripple effect across the entire
7762 community, disrupting supply, spiking prices, and instilling

7763 fear. Imagine the consequences if such an attack were to hit
7764 a major line in Louisiana, our nation -- our state's
7765 refineries, our petrochemical industry, and the families who
7766 live and work alongside this infrastructure would feel the
7767 impact immediately. That is why efforts like this bill, the
7768 Pipeline Cybersecurity Act, are so important. America must
7769 improve coordination and information-sharing across
7770 government and state entities, which in turn will make us
7771 better prepared to defend ourselves against the ever-evolving
7772 cyber attack tactics.

7773 For Louisiana, where energy infrastructure and
7774 communities live side by side, the stakes are simply too high
7775 to delay protecting our pipelines, our economy, and, most
7776 importantly, our people.

7777 Thank you, and I yield and I urge your full support for
7778 this measure.

7779 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
7780 further discussion?

7781 Seeing none, the clerk will call the roll.

7782 No, excuse me. The question now occurs on adopting
7783 7272. The clerk will call the roll.

7784 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

7785 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

7786 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

7787 Mr. Griffith?

7788 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

7789 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

7790 Mr. Bilirakis?

7791 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

7792 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

7793 Mr. Hudson?

7794 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

7795 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

7796 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

7797 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

7798 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

7799 Mr. Palmer?

7800 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

7801 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

7802 Mr. Dunn?

7803 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.

7804 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

7805 Mr. Crenshaw?

7806 [No response.]

7807 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

7808 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

7809 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

7810 Mr. Weber?

7811 *Mr. Weber. Aye.

7812 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.

7813 Mr. Allen?
7814 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
7815 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
7816 Mr. Balderson?
7817 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
7818 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
7819 Mr. Fulcher?
7820 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
7821 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
7822 Mr. Pfluger?
7823 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
7824 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
7825 Mrs. Harshbarger?
7826 [No response.]
7827 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
7828 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes, sir.
7829 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
7830 Mrs. Cammack?
7831 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
7832 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
7833 Mr. Obernolte?
7834 [No response.]
7835 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
7836 *Mr. James. Aye.
7837 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

7838 Mr. Bentz?
7839 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
7840 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
7841 Mrs. Houchin?
7842 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
7843 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
7844 Mr. Fry?
7845 [No response.]
7846 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
7847 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
7848 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
7849 Mr. Langworthy?
7850 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
7851 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
7852 Mr. Kean?
7853 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
7854 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
7855 Mr. Rulli?
7856 [No response.]
7857 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
7858 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
7859 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
7860 Mr. Goldman?
7861 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
7862 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

7863 Mrs. Fedorchak?
7864 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
7865 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
7866 Mr. Pallone?
7867 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
7868 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
7869 Ms. DeGette?
7870 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
7871 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
7872 Ms. Schakowsky?
7873 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
7874 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7875 Ms. Matsui?
7876 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
7877 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7878 Ms. Castor?
7879 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7880 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7881 Mr. Tonko?
7882 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
7883 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7884 Ms. Clarke?
7885 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
7886 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7887 Mr. Ruiz?

7888 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7889 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7890 Mr. Peters?
7891 [No response.]
7892 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
7893 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
7894 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
7895 Mr. Veasey?
7896 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
7897 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7898 Ms. Kelly?
7899 [No response.]
7900 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
7901 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
7902 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7903 Mr. Soto?
7904 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
7905 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7906 Ms. Schrier?
7907 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
7908 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7909 Mrs. Trahan?
7910 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
7911 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7912 Mrs. Fletcher?

7913 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

7914 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

7915 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

7916 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

7917 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

7918 Mr. Auchincloss?

7919 [No response.]

7920 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of --

7921 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

7922 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

7923 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

7924 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

7925 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

7926 Mr. Menendez?

7927 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

7928 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

7929 Mr. Mullin?

7930 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

7931 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

7932 Mr. Landsman?

7933 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

7934 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

7935 Ms. McClellan?

7936 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

7937 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

7938 Chairman Guthrie?

7939 *The Chair. Aye.

7940 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

7941 *The Chair. Mrs. Harshbarger?

7942 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger is not recorded.

7943 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

7944 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

7945 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking to answer the roll

7946 call?

7947 Is anyone on the Democrat side seeking to answer the

7948 roll call?

7949 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

7950 [Pause.]

7951 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 48

7952 ayes and 0 noes.

7953 *The Chair. The bill is adopted.

7954 The chair calls up H.R. 7305, and asks the clerk to

7955 report. This will be our final bill.

7956 *The Clerk. H.R. 7305 --

7957 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

7958 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for a point

7959 (sic) at any point.

7960

7961

7962

7963 [The bill follows:]

7964

7965 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7966

7967 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
7968 bill?

7969 *Ms. Castor. Mr. Chairman?

7970 *The Chair. Who is the --

7971 *Ms. Castor. Mr. Chairman?

7972 *The Chair. Oh, Ms. Castor, you are recognized for five
7973 minutes to speak on the bill.

7974 *Ms. Castor. Thank you. The Energy Threat Analysis
7975 Center Act authorizes the cybersecurity initiative originally
7976 created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. ETAC is
7977 designed to enhance the Department of Energy's emergency
7978 response capabilities. ETAC supports the department's
7979 ability to coordinate with other agencies, industries,
7980 national labs, and the intelligence community in the face of
7981 cybersecurity threats.

7982 The bill strengthens the department's ability to use
7983 public-private collaborations to analyze threats to the
7984 energy sector. It helps secure our critical infrastructure
7985 and keep our neighbors safe from energy system threats.

7986 I want to thank Representative Evans for co-leading the
7987 bill. He has a manager's amendment that will enhance the
7988 bill and make it even stronger. I urge everyone to support
7989 it.

7990 And I yield back.

7991 *Dr. Ruiz. Will you yield to --

7992 *Ms. Castor. I yield to --

7993 *The Chair. The -- yes, you yield? You didn't yield
7994 back yet.

7995 *Dr. Ruiz. Thank you.

7996 *Ms. Castor. And I yield.

7997 *Dr. Ruiz. As we modernize and digitize our energy
7998 systems, we must recognize that the threat landscape is
7999 evolving just as quickly. Cyber attacks, coordinated foreign
8000 interference, and emerging digital vulnerabilities pose real
8001 risks to our electric grid, energy generation facilities, and
8002 industrial operations. We cannot treat energy security as an
8003 afterthought.

8004 This bill renews and strengthens the Department of
8005 Energy's Energy Threat Analysis Center so it can better
8006 identify threats to our energy system, analyze risks, and
8007 improve coordination between the Federal Government and
8008 energy companies to prevent disruptions.

8009 For my district this legislation has direct and
8010 immediate relevance. Imperial County is home to Lithium
8011 Valley, a growing hub for geothermal energy production and
8012 domestic clean lithium extraction that is central to our
8013 nation's clean energy and battery supply chain. These
8014 facilities rely heavily on advanced digital control systems
8015 and grid connectivity to operate safely and efficiently. A
8016 cyber intrusion targeting operational technology could

8017 disrupt power generation, stall lithium processing, or create
8018 cascading impacts across California's energy system.

8019 At the same time, Imperial County is largely rural and
8020 geographically isolated. Our local utilities and operators
8021 do not always have the same cybersecurity resources as large
8022 cities. The Energy Threat Analysis Center ensures that
8023 actionable threat intelligence flows quickly to communities
8024 like mine, not just to major urban hubs. That is why I
8025 support this bill.

8026 And I yield back to Congresswoman Castor.

8027 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
8028 from Colorado, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

8029 *Mr. Evans. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
8030 word.

8031 *The Chair. Don't you have an amendment at the desk?

8032 *Mr. Evans. I was going to speak on the bill and then
8033 offer the amendment.

8034 *The Chair. Okay, and then offer the amendment. Okay,
8035 the gentleman is recognized to speak on the bill.

8036 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the
8037 Energy Subcommittee ranking member for her partnership on our
8038 bill.

8039 The Energy Threat Analysis Center, ETAC, plays an
8040 essential role in safeguarding critical infrastructure that
8041 ensures economic growth and national security. It brings

8042 together the Department of Energy, national labs, and
8043 private-sector utilities, and it provides the early threat
8044 detection and coordinated analysis of threats to our energy
8045 generation and transmission networks.

8046 Colorado's own National Lab of the Rockies -- formerly
8047 NRL, for my Coloradans -- hosts ETAC, and is leading the way
8048 in this vital work which protects our infrastructure's
8049 reliability, security, and ultimately affordability. We know
8050 that terrorism and sophisticated cyber threats are on the
8051 rise, and this mission is not abstract. It is urgent.

8052 I am especially proud this bill passed the subcommittee
8053 unanimously, which is a clear sign that protecting our
8054 nation's energy systems is a shared priority. I urge my
8055 colleagues to maintain that bipartisan momentum.

8056 And I will yield back.

8057 *The Chair. Is there further discussion?

8058 The gentleman from Colorado, you are recognized. You
8059 have an amendment at the desk?

8060 *Mr. Evans. Mr. Chairman, I have amendment at the desk,
8061 FC amendment_01.

8062 *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

8063 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 7305, offered --

8064 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
8065 amendment is dispensed with.

8066

8067 [The amendment of Mr. Evans follows:]

8068

8069 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8070

8071 *The Chair. And the gentleman from Colorado is
8072 recognized for five minutes to support the amendment.

8073 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8074 This amendment serves to clarify that the Department of
8075 Energy's contracting and transaction authorities -- it
8076 clarifies their authorities to carry out the vital mission of
8077 ETAC. The amendment authorizes the Secretary to enter and
8078 perform cooperative agreements, contracts, grants, and
8079 similar transactions that may be necessary to carry out
8080 national security-related functions. And it clarifies the
8081 Secretary may take action to facilitate participation with
8082 pre-approved national security contracting mechanisms and
8083 expedited review procedures to accomplish this work on behalf
8084 of our communities. This clarity will improve the
8085 flexibility and implementation of the program, which
8086 currently operates under more cumbersome research-related
8087 contracting mechanisms, not the more appropriate mechanisms
8088 for national security work.

8089 I urge support for this amendment and yield back.

8090 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
8091 further discussion?

8092 Seeing none, the question occurs on adoption of the
8093 amendment.

8094 All those in favor shall -- will signify by saying aye.

8095 All those opposed, nay.

8096 The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

8097 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 7305, as

8098 amended. All those in -- or a roll call has been requested,

8099 and the clerk will call the roll.

8100 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

8101 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

8102 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

8103 Mr. Griffith?

8104 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

8105 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

8106 Mr. Bilirakis?

8107 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

8108 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

8109 Mr. Hudson?

8110 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

8111 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

8112 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

8113 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

8114 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

8115 Mr. Palmer?

8116 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

8117 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

8118 Mr. Dunn?

8119 [No response.]

8120 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

8121 *Dr. Dunn. Aye.
8122 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
8123 Mr. Crenshaw?
8124 [No response.]
8125 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
8126 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
8127 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
8128 Mr. Weber?
8129 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
8130 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
8131 Mr. Allen?
8132 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
8133 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
8134 Mr. Balderson?
8135 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
8136 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
8137 Mr. Fulcher?
8138 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
8139 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
8140 Mr. Pfluger?
8141 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
8142 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
8143 Mrs. Harshbarger?
8144 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
8145 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

8146 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
8147 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
8148 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
8149 Mrs. Cammack?
8150 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
8151 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
8152 Mr. Obernolte?
8153 [No response.]
8154 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
8155 *Mr. James. Aye.
8156 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
8157 Mr. Bentz?
8158 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
8159 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
8160 Mrs. Houchin?
8161 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
8162 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
8163 Mr. Fry?
8164 [No response.]
8165 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
8166 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
8167 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
8168 Mr. Langworthy?
8169 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
8170 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

8171 Mr. Kean?

8172 *Mr. Kean. Aye.

8173 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

8174 Mr. Rulli?

8175 [No response.]

8176 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?

8177 *Mr. Evans. Aye.

8178 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.

8179 Mr. Goldman?

8180 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

8181 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

8182 Mrs. Fedorchak?

8183 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

8184 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

8185 Mr. Pallone?

8186 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

8187 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

8188 Ms. DeGette?

8189 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

8190 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

8191 Ms. Schakowsky?

8192 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

8193 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

8194 Ms. Matsui?

8195 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

8196 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8197 Ms. Castor?
8198 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
8199 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
8200 Mr. Tonko?
8201 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
8202 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
8203 Ms. Clarke?
8204 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
8205 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
8206 Mr. Ruiz?
8207 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
8208 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
8209 Mr. Peters?
8210 [No response.]
8211 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
8212 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
8213 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
8214 Mr. Veasey?
8215 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
8216 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
8217 Ms. Kelly?
8218 [No response.]
8219 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
8220 [No response.]

8221 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?

8222 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

8223 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

8224 Ms. Schrier?

8225 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

8226 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

8227 Mrs. Trahan?

8228 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

8229 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

8230 Mrs. Fletcher?

8231 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

8232 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

8233 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

8234 [No response.]

8235 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

8236 *Voice. AOC.

8237 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Oh, yes.

8238 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

8239 Mr. Auchincloss?

8240 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

8241 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

8242 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

8243 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

8244 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

8245 Mr. Menendez?

8246 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

8247 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

8248 Mr. Mullin?

8249 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

8250 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

8251 Mr. Landsman?

8252 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

8253 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

8254 Ms. McClellan?

8255 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

8256 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

8257 Chairman Guthrie?

8258 *The Chair. Aye.

8259 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

8260 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking recognition of the vote?

8261 Okay, I know we are going to do -- right after the --

8262 anyone for the vote?

8263 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

8264 [Pause.]

8265 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 47

8266 ayes and 0 noes.

8267 *The Chair. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

8268 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Florida seek

8269 recognition?

8270 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two

8271 items to submit for the record.

8272 *The Chair. Do you have a unanimous consent request?

8273 *Mrs. Cammack. Yes, with -- I have a unanimous consent
8274 request to enter into the record two items, the first being
8275 from this month: "Trial lawyers make more campaign
8276 contributions than any other profession," with an analysis
8277 and a report by the Alliance for Consumer Protection talking
8278 about the shady trial lawyer pipeline and a continuing look
8279 how trial lawyers boost left-wing political efforts. And of
8280 the Democrat members today who attempted to gut our kids
8281 online safety bill, six figures worth of campaign
8282 contributions are the average of what each, except with
8283 several members accepting over a half a million dollars from
8284 the trial attorneys in the last four years.

8285 And so I think it is important, Mr. Chairman, that
8286 parents deserve to know who is going to bat for them and who
8287 is going to bat for the trial attorneys. So with that I
8288 submit these for the record.

8289 *The Chair. Without objection?

8290 So ordered.

8291 [The information follows:]

8292

8293 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8294

8295 *Mrs. Cammack. Thank you.

8296 *The Chair. Without objection, staff is authorized to
8297 make technical and conforming changes to the legislation
8298 approved by the committee today.

8299 So ordered.

8300 Without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

8301 [Whereupon, at 4:04 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]