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6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 7386, THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY

8 REAUTHORIZATION ACT; AND

9 H.R. 7022, MYSTIC ALERTS ACT.

10 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

11 House of Representatives,

12 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

13 Washington, D.C.

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17 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:15 a.m. in  
18 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie  
19 [chair of the committee] presiding.

20 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Latta, Griffith,  
21 Bilirakis, Hudson, Carter of Georgia, Palmer, Dunn, Joyce,  
22 Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger, Harshbarger,  
23 Miller-Meeks, Cammack, Obernolte, James, Bentz, Houchin, Fry,  
24 Lee, Langworthy, Rulli, Evans, Goldman, Fedorchak; Pallone,  
25 DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor, Tonko, Clarke, Ruiz,  
26 Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kelly, Barragan, Soto, Schrier,  
27 Trahan, Fletcher, Ocasio-Cortez, Auchincloss, Carter of

28 Louisiana, Menendez, Mullin, Landsman, and McClellan.

29 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;

30 Jessica Donlon, General Counsel; Michael Essington, Chief

31 Counsel; Sydney Greene, Director of Finance and Logistics;

32 Annabelle Huffman, Clerk; Megan Jackson, Staff Director; Noah

33 Jackson, Clerk; AT Johnson, Special Advisor; Brayden

34 Lacefield, Special Assistant; John Lin, Senior Counsel; Sarah

35 Meier, Counsel and Parliamentarian; Joel Miller, Chief

36 Counsel; Elaina Murphy, Professional Staff Member; Lillian

37 Noland, Staff Assistant; Conor O'Donovan, FCC Detailee; Seth

38 Ricketts, Clerk; Dylan Rogers, Professional Staff Member;

39 Jackson Rudden, Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member

40 Services/Stakeholder Director; Timothy Trimble, Staff

41 Assistant; Matt VanHyfte, Communications Director; Jane

42 Vickers, Press Assistant; Hannah Anton, Minority Policy

43 Analyst; Keegan Cardman, Minority Staff Assistant; Giancarlo

44 Ceja, Minority Staff Assistant; Parul Desai, Minority Chief

45 Counsel, CAT; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director

46 and General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff

47 Director; Perry Hamilton, Minority Member Services and

48 Outreach Manager; Serena Klebba, Minority Intern; Jaime

49 McCoy, Minority FCC Detailee; Dan Miller, Minority

50 Professional Staff Member; Johanna Thomas, Minority Counsel;

51 and Hannah Treger, Minority Staff Assistant.

52

53           \*The Chair. The committee will come to order.

54           The chair recognizes himself for an opening statement,  
55 and thanks, everyone, for being here today as we prepare to  
56 consider two bills that would strengthen our ever-important  
57 public safety communications infrastructure.

58           Many of us have seen natural disasters up close and  
59 personal in our districts, and our constituents deserve the  
60 best version of the infrastructure and alert systems we are  
61 considering today. In moments of crisis every American must  
62 be able to trust that our networks are strong and reliable.  
63 FirstNet is a central part of that mission, and that is why I  
64 am looking forward to advancing the bipartisan First  
65 Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act today. That  
66 is why it is so important that we remove the legislation  
67 ambiguity currently plaguing the program while preserving the  
68 importance of the FirstNet board and the voices of first  
69 responders.

70           Since our hearing and markup in the beginning of  
71 February we have worked tirelessly with first responders and  
72 public safety officials to incorporate wide-ranging edits and  
73 technical assistance to make this bill as strong as possible.  
74 We have run a very open process, and are truly appreciative  
75 of their efforts to engage with us and find common ground  
76 wherever possible in this reauthorization.

77           I would also like to thank the sponsors of the bill,

78 Representatives Dunn from Florida and McClellan from  
79 Virginia, for their leadership and commitment to improving  
80 accountability, reliability, and transparency in the FirstNet  
81 program.

82 Our markup today also includes the Mystic Alert Act led  
83 by Representative Pfluger, which will facilitate the use of  
84 satellite alerts to quickly convey information about  
85 potential threats in areas where traditional cell service may  
86 not be available. We have had multiple members of this  
87 committee, including my friend, Mr. Pfluger from Texas, but  
88 also Buddy Carter from Georgia, who experienced firsthand the  
89 horrific events last summer. That is why I am glad we have  
90 been able to advance this bill today.

91 On so many issues the Energy and Commerce Committee is  
92 the place where we are able to work in a bipartisan way and  
93 advance strong, common-sense legislation. So I want to close  
94 by thanking my good friend, the Ranking Member Pallone, and I  
95 want to thank your staff for working closely with us to  
96 advance these joint priorities. I thank you.

97 And I will yield back, and I now recognize the gentleman  
98 from New Jersey, Representative Pallone, for five minutes for  
99 an opening statement.

100 \*Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Chairman Guthrie. I am  
101 pleased the committee is marking up two public safety  
102 communication bills this morning.

103           The looming sunset of the First Responder Network  
104 Authority, which is set to expire in less than one year, is  
105 one of the most urgent communications issues that we face  
106 right now. And that is why for years I have advocated for  
107 committee action to preserve FirstNet, which has become a  
108 critical tool for public safety professionals and first  
109 responders in its first decade in operation. That is why I  
110 support H.R. 7386, the First Responder Network Authority  
111 Reauthorization Act, which addresses the February 2027 sunset  
112 by reauthorizing the authority for 10 years.

113           Extending the FirstNet Authority means that millions of  
114 law enforcement, fire, emergency, medical, and other first  
115 responder users will maintain access to the nationwide public  
116 safety broadband network as it stands today.

117           The bill also expands public safety's representation on  
118 the FirstNet board so that FirstNet users have multiple seats  
119 at the table. This will give public safety professionals and  
120 volunteers on the ground protecting our communities each day  
121 more opportunity to steer the FirstNet Authority and  
122 Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network in the direction  
123 that best serves first responders.

124           While the FirstNet Authority's work has been positive  
125 for public safety, it is clear that the original law that  
126 created FirstNet contains structural deficiencies that at  
127 times open the door to waste and mismanagement. These issues

128 have been detailed at length in various Commerce Department  
129 Office of Inspector General reports over the years. In  
130 response to those issues the bill and ANS before us today  
131 makes important reforms to increase transparency and  
132 accountability at the FirstNet Authority for the benefit of  
133 FirstNet users across the country.

134 I want to commend Representatives Dunn and McClellan for  
135 their bipartisan leadership on this important legislation and  
136 urge my colleagues to support it today.

137 And I also support the second bill, passage of H.R.  
138 7022, the Mystic Alerts Act, and I appreciate the work of  
139 Representatives Fletcher and Pfluger on this legislation to  
140 expand access to emergency alerts.

141 And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance  
142 of my time.

143 \*The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

144 The chair reminds members that, pursuant to the  
145 committee rules, all members' opening statements will be made  
146 part of the record.

147 Are there further opening statements?

148 The gentleman from Florida, you are recognized for three  
149 minutes for an opening statement.

150 \*Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike  
151 the last word on H.R. 7386.

152 \*The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

153           \*Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

154           I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan First  
155 Responder Network Reauthorization Act, and I thank  
156 Representative McClellan for co-leading this legislation with  
157 me.

158           I would also like to note that this bill has support  
159 from 16 public safety organizations that demonstrate broad  
160 support for the legislation among our first responders.

161           Chairman Guthrie, I would like to ask for unanimous  
162 consent to submit into the records that report.

163           \*The Chair. Without objection.

164           [The information follows:]

165

166           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

167

168           \*Mr. Dunn. Thank you. FirstNet is not just a network,  
169 it is the backbone of public safety communications in this  
170 country. When Congress first established the first responder  
171 network, the objective was clear: build a preemptive network  
172 for first responders that they could rely on.

173           These brave men and women, the ones who step forward  
174 when others step back, who risk their lives to protect our  
175 communities, deserve nothing less than a resilient  
176 communication system. They depend on this network every day  
177 in every kind of emergency.

178           FirstNet's authority is set to expire at the end of this  
179 year. Without action this Congress, we put at risk a network  
180 that our first responders rely on to save lives. The bill  
181 before us extends that authority through September 30, 2037,  
182 giving FirstNet the long-term certainty it needs to plan  
183 ahead and continue investing in this critical infrastructure.

184           Firstnet is especially essential for communities such as  
185 my home state in Florida. It plays a critical role in  
186 preparedness, response, and recovery when disasters strike.  
187 My constituents understand all too well how devastating the  
188 impact of hurricanes and tropical storms can have on our  
189 communities and our communications.

190           Over the past eight years the Panhandle has endured four  
191 major hurricanes, most recently Helene and most devastatingly  
192 Hurricane Michael. In those moments, when lives are on the

193 line and every second counts, reliable communication should  
194 not be in question.

195         And I just want to take a moment to thank the brave men  
196 and women across the country for their service and sacrifice,  
197 and a special thank you to Walton County's very own Sheriff  
198 Michael Atkinson for his leadership and dedication to  
199 FirstNet, keeping our community safe.

200         Our first responders have never stopped showing up for  
201 us. It is long past time we showed up for them.

202         Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your work on this priority,  
203 and I yield back.

204         \*The Chair. Thank you for your work. The gentleman  
205 yields back and the chair recognizes Ms. Matsui for three  
206 minutes for an opening statement.

207         \*Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

208         Today's markup reauthorizing FirstNet is an important  
209 step forward for public safety. I am happy we reached this  
210 point through a strong bipartisan process.

211         FirstNet has made a real difference for first responders  
212 across the country. We see the impact clearly in my  
213 district. From downtown Sacramento to the California delta,  
214 our firefighters, EMTs, and law enforcement are responding to  
215 wildfires that move fast, floods that threaten communities,  
216 and disasters that can knock out local infrastructure in a  
217 matter of minutes. They need priority service, strong

218 coverage, and a network that performs when conditions are at  
219 their worst.

220         When those calls come in, when evacuations are underway,  
221 and when crews are coordinating across agencies a reliable  
222 connection is more than a convenience; it is essential to  
223 keeping people safe. FirstNet's mission remains just as  
224 important today as when Congress first created it, and I want  
225 to recognize the bipartisan work that has gone into improving  
226 this bill. We are protecting what works and fixing what  
227 doesn't. We are ensuring FirstNet is working as intended and  
228 delivering real value for public safety. That means  
229 strengthening oversight and accountability.

230         Congress and the public deserve a clear picture of how  
231 funds are being spent, whether commitments are being met, and  
232 whether public safety goals are being achieved. It also  
233 means making sure the benefits of FirstNet reach all  
234 communities, including the rural and hard-to-serve areas that  
235 too often get left behind. And that is why I am glad this  
236 bill places FirstNet under NTI's direct control while  
237 preserving flexibility for FirstNet Authority to set  
238 strategic priorities and deploy emergency responses.

239         These guardrails improve accountability while respecting  
240 the expertise of our public safety community. And  
241 importantly, now that Congress finally has access to the  
242 FirstNet contract, we are better positioned to provide the

243 rigorous oversight this program deserves. That access helps  
244 Congress verify investments, track performances, and keep  
245 FirstNet on the right path. That is how we make sure this  
246 program remains worthy of the trust that first responders and  
247 the public have placed in it.

248 I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle  
249 for their work on this bill, and I look forward to working  
250 together as we move it forward.

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

252 \*The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady from California  
253 yields back.

254 Are there further opening statements?

255 Seeing no further opening statements, the chair calls up  
256 H.R. 7386 and asks the clerk to report.

257 \*The Clerk. H.R. 7386, a bill to amend the Middle Class  
258 Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to reauthorize the  
259 First Responders Network Authority, and for other purposes.

260 \*The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the  
261 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for  
262 amendment at any point.

263 So ordered.

264 [The bill follows:]

265

266 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

267

268           \*The Chair. Does anybody seek to be recognized on the  
269 bill?

270           For what purpose does the gentleman from North Carolina  
271 seek recognition?

272           \*Mr. Hudson. To speak on the bill.

273           \*The Chair. You are recognized for five minutes to  
274 speak on the bill.

275           \*Mr. Hudson. Thank you, and good morning to everyone.  
276 I am thrilled to be here to support Representative Dunn and  
277 Representative Pfluger's important lifesaving public safety  
278 bills that are before us, including the First Responder  
279 Network Authority Reauthorization Act and the Mystic Alerts  
280 Act, a bill to kickstart satellite transmission of wireless  
281 emergency alerts.

282           It has been a long process to get to where we are today.  
283 Over the last several months we have heard from multiple  
284 panels of witnesses who shared their expertise and experience  
285 with FirstNet and provided input on how this legislation  
286 would improve the network and ensure it operates in the best  
287 interest of public safety. Their testimony helped shape the  
288 original text of the FirstNet reauthorization bill. Since  
289 our legislative hearing in January we have been engaged in  
290 open negotiations with public safety organizations and other  
291 stakeholders to address concerns and incorporate  
292 recommendations. Multiple drafts were shared back and forth

293 as we continued to improve this legislation.

294 I would like to thank the public safety organizations  
295 that came to the table to help define the board's continued  
296 influence over the future of this network. Your  
297 participation helped us improve this legislation.

298 To those who still oppose this legislation because they  
299 believe the only path forward for reauthorization is a clean  
300 reauthorization with no reforms and to strike the sunset date  
301 and remove congressional oversight and review forever, that  
302 was never on the table or an appropriate path forward.

303 This legislation strikes an important balance that  
304 explicitly outlines and preserves the board's role in  
305 determining the needs of public safety and the strategic  
306 direction of the network, while ensuring the proper and  
307 responsible oversight of the network and the reinvestment of  
308 funds. We heard directly from NTIA's public testimony that  
309 they rely on the board to provide crucial expertise and  
310 direction on the needs of public safety. This legislation  
311 preserves that existing relationship, and goes even further  
312 to strengthen public safety's voice by requiring two  
313 additional seats on the board to be dedicated to public  
314 safety.

315 I firmly believe this legislation will pave the way for  
316 a stronger and more resilient first responder network  
317 authority.

318           And Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank my  
319 colleagues across the aisle. We have worked very closely  
320 together. I think this is the most bipartisan piece of  
321 legislation I have worked on this Congress. And I want to  
322 particularly thank Representative McClellan for her hard work  
323 and her expertise. She brought so much experience to the  
324 table. She has been invaluable in this process from day one,  
325 and without her engagement and input and hard work we would  
326 not be where we are today.

327           So thank you, Representative McClellan.

328           I also want to thank Ranking Member Matsui for her  
329 engagement, and our chairman -- or ranking member, Mr.  
330 Pallone.

331           I am going to hear about that, Mr. Pallone.

332           [Laughter.]

333           \*Mr. Hudson. But once you are a chairman, you are  
334 always a chairman, right?

335           But I want to thank the Matsui and Pallone teams. Their  
336 staff worked with us tirelessly -- weekends, nights, side by  
337 side -- to really -- committed to making this legislation  
338 better. And I think that is really important to point out  
339 and emphasize and celebrate.

340           And I look forward to reauthorizing the First Responder  
341 Network Authority. I look forward to moving this forward  
342 today. And I thank all of our committee members for your

343 participation.

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

345 \*The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. The  
346 chair recognizes the gentlelady from Virginia to speak on the  
347 -- I tell you what, we can call your amendment. Then  
348 everybody wants to speak on the bill can call -- can speak to  
349 the amendment. So --

350 \*Ms. McClellan. Okay.

351 \*The Chair. Do you want to -- for what purpose does the  
352 gentlelady from Virginia seek recognition?

353 \*Ms. McClellan. I have an amendment in the nature of a  
354 substitute at the desk labeled ANS)04.

355 \*The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

356 \*The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to  
357 H.R. 7386.

358 \*The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the  
359 amendment is dispensed with.

360 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

361

362 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

363

364           \*The Chair. And the gentlelady is recognized for five  
365 minutes in support of the amendment.

366           \*Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

367           This amendment reflects extensive bipartisan work with  
368 Dr. Dunn, our colleagues, and, most importantly, the public  
369 safety community. At its core we have a simple but critical  
370 goal: making sure that the FirstNet network continues to  
371 work for the men and women who rely on it in life-or-death  
372 situations.

373           First, this amendment strengthens public safety's role  
374 on the FirstNet Authority board by increasing the minimum  
375 number of board members who are public safety professionals  
376 to five, and staggering board terms to ensure continuity in  
377 leadership. It also gives the board a more meaningful role  
378 in selecting the director of FirstNet by formalizing its duty  
379 to provide a list of qualified candidates to NTIA from which  
380 NTIA will choose.

381           Second, it reinforces accountability while avoiding  
382 unnecessary delays. The amendment ensures that the board  
383 will review and consult on the Business Continuity and  
384 Disaster Recovery Plan, which is critical to ensuring rapid  
385 network restoration during emergencies. At the same time, it  
386 clarifies that FirstNet may carry out key operational and  
387 strategic functions without prior NTIA approval, addressing a  
388 key concern of the public safety stakeholders that

389 bureaucratic delays could hinder timely decision-making.

390       Importantly, this flexibility is paired with  
391 accountability by requiring NTIA to respond within 60 days to  
392 FirstNet recommendations on reinvestment and task orders.  
393 We heard clearly from first responders that they need a  
394 network that is reliable, resilient, and able to adapt  
395 quickly in emergencies. This amendment delivers on that goal  
396 by strengthening accountability while preserving the  
397 flexibility FirstNet needs to operate in real time. It  
398 ensures that public safety voices remain at the center of  
399 decision-making, improves coordination and transparency, and  
400 removes unnecessary barriers that could slow down action when  
401 every second counts.

402       Just as importantly, this amendment reflects a  
403 thoughtful, bipartisan compromise. We worked through areas  
404 of disagreement, listened to the stakeholders, and made  
405 targeted changes to ensure the bill supports FirstNet's  
406 mission without creating unintended consequences.

407       As emergencies become more frequent and complex, the  
408 importance of this network continues to grow, and this  
409 legislation helps ensure FirstNet remains strong, responsive,  
410 and ready to meet those challenges. This is a good bill, and  
411 this amendment makes it even better.

412       I would like to thank Dr. Dunn for his partnership on  
413 this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to

414 support the amendment in the nature of a substitute and the  
415 underlying bill.

416 I yield back.

417 \*The Chair. Thanks, the gentlelady yields back and the  
418 chair recognizes Mr. Joyce, Dr. Joyce, from Pennsylvania for  
419 five minutes to speak on the amendment.

420 \*Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. FirstNet is a  
421 critical component of public safety communications in the  
422 district that I represent in Pennsylvania. It is an  
423 incredibly rural district, but not just rural districts in  
424 Pennsylvania benefit from FirstNet. FirstNet provides first  
425 responders the ability to respond to emergency situations  
426 throughout the United States with the most effective  
427 communication system that is possible. In an emergency we  
428 all know there is no time to waste. First responders across  
429 the country know the grave consequences that can happen when  
430 a 911 call is dropped or communications systems fail in the  
431 seconds that matter the most.

432 At Shade Gap Volunteer Fire Company in Huntingdon  
433 County, Pennsylvania firefighters utilize the FirstNet system  
434 to save lives. Before the FirstNet system tower was  
435 installed in 2022, firefighters faced dropped 911 calls that  
436 were difficult to hear, even when they did come through, or  
437 sometimes the phone calls did not come through. There are  
438 cases when individuals had to drive just to allow their 911

439 call to be received. Shade Gap Volunteer Fire Company  
440 president Tanner Locke said that with FirstNet coverage in  
441 their area, firefighters have not had one single dropped 911  
442 call since 2022. That is right. Not one single dropped 911  
443 call. The FirstNet upgrade has allowed first responders to  
444 respond to emergencies, when we all know that time is of the  
445 essence.

446 In the previous subcommittee hearing on this important  
447 piece of legislation I questioned witnesses on the  
448 transparency of the FirstNet contract, and specifically its  
449 rural build-out. We must focus on transparency of the  
450 contract between the Federal Government and AT&T to ensure  
451 that areas like Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania are not being  
452 left behind as deployment of this critical infrastructure  
453 accelerates.

454 The provisions that are included in H.R. 7386, the First  
455 Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act, will  
456 strengthen this essential program. By providing NTIA with  
457 the means necessary to conduct oversight and requiring  
458 detailed reporting on the performance of the FirstNet  
459 contractor, Congress can ensure that transparency and  
460 accountability are at the center as we continue to invest in  
461 public safety communications infrastructures in the United  
462 States.

463 I urge all of my colleagues to support this important

464 legislation and, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

465 \*The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there a  
466 discussion on the Democratic side?

467 The gentlelady from Michigan seeks recognition to speak  
468 on the amendment.

469 \*Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike  
470 the last word.

471 \*The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized to speak on  
472 the amendment.

473 \*Mrs. Dingell. Thank you. I want to thank  
474 Representatives Dunn and McClellan for their bipartisan  
475 leadership on this bill, as well as Chair Guthrie and Ranking  
476 Member Pallone for their work to move this important  
477 bipartisan legislation forward.

478 FirstNet is absolutely essential to public safety in  
479 Michigan and across the country. It is a lifeline for first  
480 responders, many of whom we see in this room. So thank you  
481 for being here.

482 In my district, fire departments, police departments,  
483 EMS, and the University of Michigan rely on FirstNet every  
484 day. Close to 1,000 public safety agencies across Michigan  
485 use FirstNet. In my district alone there are more than  
486 10,000 FirstNet subscribers, and across the country the  
487 network now supports over 7 million connections and covers 3  
488 million square miles.

489           FirstNet has proven its value time and time again during  
490 severe weather, large-scale disasters, and other operations  
491 and emergencies. When everything else fails, reliable and  
492 resilient communication can save lives, and that is why  
493 Congress has had a responsibility to ensure FirstNet  
494 continues to serve public safety first and foremost.

495           I believe reauthorizing FirstNet is critical and  
496 necessary. Extending FirstNet's Authority through 2037  
497 ensures stability while we build on its success. And as we  
498 do so we are working together to ensure proper safeguards are  
499 in place to preserve an independent voice for first  
500 responders in how the network is governed and operated while  
501 maintaining new oversight authority under NTIA. I believe  
502 the bill before us, with the hard work of our two co-leaders,  
503 strikes that balance.

504           FirstNet's public-private partnership and self-  
505 sustaining funding model has driven innovation, expanded  
506 coverage, and we must preserve that progress while continuing  
507 to assure accountability, fair competition, and continued  
508 modernization.

509           I look forward to working with my colleagues on both  
510 sides of the aisle to get this -- to get FirstNet  
511 reauthorized now, and get it right. We have incorporated  
512 lessons we have learned since its creation to ensure we are  
513 prioritizing public safety while strengthening resiliency and

514 modernization.

515 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I  
516 yield back.

517 \*The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair  
518 recognizes the gentleman from Idaho for five minutes to speak  
519 on the amendment.

520 \*Mr. Fulcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is  
521 actually to the underlying bill.

522 \*The Chair. Okay, the gentleman is recognized.

523 \*Mr. Fulcher. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I thank my  
524 colleagues for bringing this forward and certainly recognize  
525 the importance of it.

526 I do want to go on record, however, just pointing out  
527 that the Office of Inspector General in a recent audit did  
528 show a number of what they call critical reports. And again,  
529 this is incredibly important to proceed with, and so I intend  
530 on supporting it, but as sometimes privately-owned entities  
531 with government funding can do, there sometimes is a lack of  
532 accountability. And I just want to go on the record by  
533 saying, look, we need to be assured that these goals are  
534 being met, and I don't want to lose sight of the overall need  
535 for accountability.

536 That said, I will be supporting the bill, but wanted to  
537 go on record with that.

538 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

539           \*The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair  
540 recognizes the gentleman from Florida for five minutes to  
541 speak on the amendment.

542           \*Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman.

543           During hurricanes, flooding, fires, even freezes in  
544 central Florida, reliable communication is critical for our  
545 brave first responders to be able to save lives. Congress  
546 stepped up after 9/11 to create the FirstNet system with  
547 spectrum sale proceeds with an audacious goal that every  
548 community, no matter how rural or urban, has access to  
549 dependable communications. Every American deserves that  
550 protection.

551           I contacted a lot of our local central Florida law  
552 enforcement agencies and emergency response agencies. We see  
553 all three of our counties and all of our major cities in the  
554 region, from Osceola in Orange to Polk County and all of our  
555 cities, support and are utilizing this program. From our  
556 Osceola County Emergency Manager, Bill Litton, he had  
557 mentioned, "We have a good experience with the service and  
558 the resources from FirstNet that they can provide our county  
559 pre and post-disaster," and went on to mention that FirstNet  
560 had added two additional towers to the area.

561           We heard in committee testimony about billions of  
562 dollars in new investment provided by the provider AT&T.  
563 This is a key public-private partnership, and I am proud to

564 support this 10-year reauthorization.

565 And I yield back.

566 \*The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair will  
567 recognize -- anybody on the Republican side seeking  
568 recognition?

569 Does the gentleman from Texas seek recognition to speak  
570 on the amendment?

571 You are recognized for five minutes.

572 \*Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

573 In my district FirstNet is not some abstract policy; it  
574 is daily necessity. Local first responders rely on FirstNet  
575 every day to maintain secure, reliable communication during  
576 emergencies, natural disasters, and major incidents. In  
577 Tarrant County Firstnet also plays an important role in  
578 supporting the district attorney's office by ensuring smooth  
579 coordination with law enforcement and public safety partners,  
580 particularly during high-risk operations and large-scale  
581 investigations.

582 I want to also recognize the strong role of the private  
583 sector partnering support FirstNet in our region. Their  
584 ongoing investment, local engagement, and commitment to  
585 public safety have made a meaningful difference for first  
586 responders in the broader community in North Texas.

587 The reliability, priority, and -- that FirstNet provides  
588 directly enhances public safety outcomes in my district, and

589 I appreciate the continued focus on strengthening and  
590 sustaining this network for those who protect our  
591 communities. I look forward to supporting this bill for  
592 everyone back home in my district.

593 I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

594 \*The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there  
595 further seeking -- the gentleman from California is  
596 recognized. Dr. Ruiz is recognized for five minutes to speak  
597 on the amendment.

598 \*Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

599 As an emergency medicine physician also trained in  
600 disaster aid, I can't stress enough how FirstNet is a  
601 lifeline. It is not just a program, it is a lifeline. It is  
602 the difference between chaos and coordination when disaster  
603 strikes, especially in rural and underserved communities like  
604 those I represent in the Coachella Valley and Imperial  
605 Valleys. It is the difference between getting the  
606 information that first responders need to do their job safely  
607 versus people dying because they don't have the speed and the  
608 coordination and the assistance and the help from our heroes  
609 who are putting themselves in harm's way in order to save  
610 lives.

611 In my district we face wildfires, extreme heat, and poor  
612 air quality events that threaten lives and overwhelm local  
613 response systems. We are right on top of the San Andreas

614 fault, so we are always vigilant of the big one, the big  
615 earthquake that may arise. Already in the month of March our  
616 temperatures are about 116 degrees, about 20 degrees above  
617 the average.

618         During these type of emergencies, when traditional  
619 networks become congested or fail, FirstNet ensures that our  
620 firefighters, EMTs, and law enforcement officers stay  
621 connected so that they can save lives. That is why I have  
622 consistently supported the reauthorization of FirstNet since  
623 its earliest consideration in the subcommittee. I have  
624 pushed for continued investment in network reliability, rural  
625 coverage, and deployable assets so that no community is left  
626 behind when it matters most.

627         But our work is not done. As we look ahead we must  
628 ensure FirstNet keeps pace with evolving threats and  
629 technologies, and we have to make sure that all of our  
630 communities have access to FirstNet and other type of  
631 programs like this, where first responders can be guaranteed  
632 and feel secure and confident, and they can trust in their  
633 communication systems when all hell breaks loose. That means  
634 strengthening coverage gaps, improving interoperability, and  
635 ensuring equitable access for all first responders, whether  
636 they serve in dense urban centers or in remote desert  
637 communities like mine.

638         Reauthorizing FirstNet is about preparedness and

639 resilience. It is about protecting the men and women who  
640 risk their lives to protect us. So I urge my colleagues to  
641 support this legislation and reaffirm our commitment to the  
642 safety of our communities and of our first responders.

643 I yield back.

644 \*The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Are there any  
645 speakers on the Republican side wishing to speak on the  
646 amendment?

647 Seeing none, Mr. Carter from Louisiana is recognized for  
648 five minutes to speak on the amendment.

649 [Pause.]

650 \*The Chair. Mr. Carter, are you trying to get your --  
651 are you trying to call up -- okay. Go off the cuff.

652 [Laughter.]

653 \*Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I move to strike the last  
654 word.

655 \*The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

656 \*Mr. Carter of Louisiana. I proudly represent  
657 Louisiana's 2nd congressional district, and in my home state  
658 we know all too well how devastating natural disasters like  
659 hurricanes and flooding can be to our communities. That is  
660 why having reliable public safety communications and  
661 resilient infrastructure is essential to protecting lives and  
662 ensuring effective emergencies -- responses.

663 Public safety stakeholders in Louisiana and across our

664 country have called on Congress to reauthorize the Federal  
665 Net -- the FirstNet Authority so first responders have the  
666 tools they need to protect and to serve our communities  
667 effectively and efficiently. That is why I support  
668 Representative McClellan and Dunn's bipartisan First  
669 Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act which would  
670 extend this critical communication resource for our first  
671 responders.

672 We must ensure that our communities are prepared and  
673 well equipped to respond when disasters or emergencies  
674 strike, especially our rural and underserved communities  
675 which may lack modern infrastructure and can be hard to reach  
676 during natural disasters. Reauthorizations -- reauthorizing  
677 FirstNet is a good -- is good for public safety and supports  
678 the first responders, the hard work, the commitment that they  
679 do in districts like mine.

680 I call on my colleagues to join me in voting yes for  
681 this critical bipartisan legislation. Thank you.

682 And Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

683 \*The Chair. Thank you for yielding back, and that is  
684 why I still get a paper ticket before I --

685 [Laughter.]

686 \*Mr. Carter of Louisiana. That is right.

687 \*The Chair. Just as a backup. Just as a backup.

688 Is there any further recognition for -- to speak on the

689 amendment?

690           Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote  
691 occurs on adopting the amendment in the nature of a  
692 substitute. We will do this by voice and then final passage  
693 with -- so if there is no further discussion, the vote occurs  
694 on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

695           All those in favor, say aye.

696           All those opposed, no.

697           The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

698           The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 7386, as  
699 amended. A roll call vote has been requested and the clerk  
700 will call the roll.

701           \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

702           \*Mr. Latta. Aye.

703           \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta records as aye.

704           Mr. Griffith?

705           \*Mr. Griffith. Aye.

706           \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith records as aye.

707           Mr. Bilirakis?

708           \*Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

709           \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis records as aye.

710           Mr. Hudson?

711           \*Mr. Hudson. Aye.

712           \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson records as aye.

713           Mr. Carter of Georgia?

714 \*Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.  
715 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter from Georgia records as aye.  
716 Mr. Palmer?  
717 \*Mr. Palmer. Aye.  
718 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer records as aye.  
719 Mr. Dunn?  
720 \*Mr. Dunn. Aye.  
721 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn records as aye.  
722 Mr. Crenshaw?  
723 [No response.]  
724 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?  
725 [No response.]  
726 \*The Clerk. Mr. Weber?  
727 \*Mr. Weber. Aye.  
728 \*The Clerk. Mr. Weber records as aye.  
729 Mr. Allen?  
730 \*Mr. Allen. Aye.  
731 \*The Clerk. Mr. Allen records as aye.  
732 Mr. Balderson?  
733 [No response.]  
734 \*The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?  
735 \*Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.  
736 \*The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher records as aye.  
737 Mr. Pfluger?  
738 \*Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

739 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger records as aye.  
740 Mrs. Harshbarger?  
741 \*Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.  
742 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger records as aye.  
743 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?  
744 \*Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.  
745 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks records as aye.  
746 Mrs. Cammack?  
747 [No response.]  
748 \*The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?  
749 [No response.]  
750 \*The Clerk. Mr. James?  
751 [No response.]  
752 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?  
753 \*Mr. Bentz. Aye.  
754 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bentz records as aye.  
755 Mrs. Houchin?  
756 \*Mrs. Houchin. Aye.  
757 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin records as aye.  
758 Mr. Fry?  
759 \*Mr. Fry. Aye.  
760 \*The Clerk. Mr. Fry records as aye.  
761 Ms. Lee?  
762 \*Ms. Lee. Aye.  
763 \*The Clerk. Ms. Lee records as aye.

764 Mr. Langworthy?  
765 \*Mr. Langworthy. Aye.  
766 \*The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy records as aye.  
767 Mr. Kean?  
768 [No response.]  
769 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?  
770 \*Mr. Rulli. Aye.  
771 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rulli records as aye.  
772 Mr. Evans?  
773 \*Mr. Evans. Aye.  
774 \*The Clerk. Mr. Evans records as aye.  
775 Mr. Goldman?  
776 \*Mr. Goldman. Aye.  
777 \*The Clerk. Mr. Goldman records as aye.  
778 Mrs. Fedorchak?  
779 \*Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.  
780 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak records as aye.  
781 Mr. Pallone?  
782 \*Mr. Pallone. Aye.  
783 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pallone records as aye.  
784 Ms. DeGette?  
785 \*Ms. DeGette. Aye.  
786 \*The Clerk. Ms. DeGette records as aye.  
787 Ms. Schakowsky?  
788 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

789 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky records as aye.  
790 Ms. Matsui?  
791 \*Ms. Matsui. Aye.  
792 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui records as aye.  
793 Ms. Castor?  
794 \*Ms. Castor. Aye.  
795 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor records as aye.  
796 Mr. Tonko?  
797 \*Mr. Tonko. Aye.  
798 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko records as aye.  
799 Ms. Kelly?  
800 \*Ms. Kelly. Aye.  
801 \*The Clerk. Sorry. Ms. Kelly records as aye.  
802 Ms. Clarke?  
803 \*Ms. Clarke. Aye.  
804 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke records as aye.  
805 Mr. Ruiz?  
806 \*Ms. Clarke. All the time.  
807 \*Mr. Ruiz. Aye.  
808 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz records as aye.  
809 Mr. Peters?  
810 \*Mr. Peters. Aye.  
811 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters records as aye.  
812 Mrs. Dingell?  
813 \*Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

814 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell records as aye.  
815 Mr. Veasey?  
816 [No response.]  
817 \*The Clerk. Mr. Barragan -- or Ms. Barragan?  
818 \*Ms. Barragan. Aye.  
819 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto?  
820 \*Mr. Soto. Aye.  
821 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto records as aye.  
822 Ms. Schrier?  
823 \*Ms. Schrier. Aye.  
824 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier records as aye.  
825 Mrs. Trahan?  
826 \*Mrs. Trahan. Aye.  
827 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan records as aye.  
828 Mrs. Fletcher?  
829 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.  
830 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher records as aye.  
831 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?  
832 \*Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.  
833 \*The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez records as aye.  
834 Mr. Auchincloss?  
835 \*Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.  
836 \*The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss records as aye.  
837 Mr. Carter from Louisiana?  
838 \*Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

839 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter from Louisiana records as aye.  
840 Mr. Menendez?  
841 \*Mr. Menendez. Aye.  
842 \*The Clerk. Mr. Menendez records as aye.  
843 Mr. Mullin?  
844 \*Mr. Mullin. Aye.  
845 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin records as aye.  
846 Mr. Landsman?  
847 \*Mr. Landsman. Aye.  
848 \*The Clerk. Mr. Landsman records as aye.  
849 And then Ms. McClellan?  
850 \*Ms. McClellan. Aye.  
851 \*The Clerk. Ms. McClellan records as aye.  
852 Chairman Guthrie?  
853 \*The Chair. Aye.  
854 \*The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie records as aye.  
855 \*The Chair. Dr. Joyce?  
856 \*Mr. Joyce. Aye.  
857 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce records as aye.  
858 \*The Chair. Anyone else?  
859 Mr. James?  
860 \*Mr. James. How is James recorded?  
861 \*The Clerk. He is not recorded.  
862 \*Mr. James. James is aye.  
863 \*The Clerk. Mr. James is aye.

864 \*The Chair. Mr. Balderson?

865 \*The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is not recorded.

866 \*Mr. Balderson. Aye.

867 \*The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is aye.

868 \*The Chair. Any on the Democrat side?

869 How is Ms. Clarke recorded?

870 \*The Clerk. She is recorded as aye.

871 \*The Chair. Thanks. Mrs. Cammack?

872 \*Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

873 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is recorded as aye.

874 \*The Chair. I think there is somebody walking in the

875 door right now. We got one more. Okay, they got Mr. Veasey

876 coming.

877 How is Mr. Veasey recorded?

878 \*The Clerk. He is not recorded.

879 \*Mr. Veasey. Veasey is yes.

880 \*The Chair. If he is not in the hallway --

881 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is aye.

882 \*The Chair. The clerk will report.

883 \*The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there are 50

884 ayes and 0 noes.

885 \*The Chair. The ayes have it --

886 \*The Clerk. Sorry, 51 ayes.

887 \*The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

888 All right. The chair will -- the chair calls up H.R.

889 7022, and asks the clerk to report.

890 \*The Clerk. H.R. 7022, a bill to provide for the  
891 transmission of emergency alerts by satellite, and for other  
892 purposes. Be it enacted --

893 \*The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the  
894 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for  
895 amendment at any point.

896 So ordered.

897 [The bill follows:]

898

899 \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

900

901           \*The Chair. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?  
902           For what purpose does the gentleman from Texas seek  
903 recognition?

904           \*Mr. Pfluger. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the  
905 nature of a substitute, so --

906           \*The Chair. The clerk will report.

907           \*The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to  
908 H.R. 7022 offered by Mr. Pfluger from Texas.

909           \*The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the  
910 amendment is dispensed with.

911           [The amendment of Mr. Pfluger follows:]

912

913           \*\*\*\*\*COMMITTEE INSERT\*\*\*\*\*

914

915           \*The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five  
916 minutes in support of the amendment.

917           \*Mr. Pfluger. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

918           As many of you know, this is a personal issue for me  
919 after the July Fourth flooding that swept through central  
920 Texas, including the all-girls Camp Mystic, where two of my  
921 daughters were attending. I knew that Congress had to act,  
922 and had to act quickly to improve the redundancy and  
923 reliability in the Wireless Emergency Alert system to ensure  
924 that alerts reach families and first responders even in the  
925 most challenging circumstances.

926           H.R. 7022, the Mystic Alerts Act, is the result of these  
927 efforts, and this legislation ensures that during natural  
928 disasters that the wireless emergency alerts can still be  
929 delivered via satellite when traditional networks go down or  
930 service is unavailable.

931           This need for improvement was reinforced during last  
932 year's Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing  
933 titled, "Legislative Improvements to Public Safety  
934 Communications in the United States.'" There we heard from  
935 expert witnesses about the need to strengthen the WEA systems  
936 and the risk when Americans lose access to alerts due to  
937 damaged, overwhelmed, or non-existent cellular  
938 infrastructure, especially in rural areas. The Mystic Alert  
939 Act would close these gaps by incorporating space-based

940 mobile broadband into the Wireless Emergency Alert system.

941           And this amendment in the nature of a substitute  
942 incorporates technical assistance into the Mystic Alerts Act  
943 to ensure sound implementation of the legislation with the  
944 WARN Act, as well as ensure that if a provider elects to  
945 transmit emergency alerts they may not impose a fee for that  
946 service.

947           I would like to thank my co-leads, Representatives  
948 Lizzie Fletcher and Mark Veasey from Texas, who are familiar  
949 with this camp and the need for this, and Representative  
950 Buddy Carter who also had grandchildren that were at the  
951 camp. And I would like to thank them for working closely  
952 with my office, with myself to advance this bipartisan but  
953 also common-sense legislation. Their collaboration has been  
954 instrumental in advancing this effort, and I think we owe it  
955 to the families that lost their lives to continue to do the  
956 best that we can, and I think this legislation represents  
957 that effort.

958           I urge my colleagues to support this important  
959 bipartisan legislation and yield back.

960           \*The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and I will speak  
961 for the committee to say our thoughts and prayers have been  
962 with you, especially after what happened last Fourth of July  
963 -- with you and your family and with Mr. Carter and his  
964 granddaughter and her family. I believe his granddaughter

965 lost her cousin from the other side of the family, and the  
966 thoughts and prayers are with you.

967 So the gentlelady from Texas is recognized for five  
968 minutes to speak on the amendment.

969 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want  
970 to thank you and Ranking Member Pallone for including the  
971 Mystic Alerts Act in today's markup, and I want to thank my  
972 friend from Texas, Congressman Pfluger, for his leadership  
973 and his commitment on this issue, as well as my other co-  
974 leads, Congressman Veasey and Congressman Carter. I am  
975 really proud to work on this important bill in response to  
976 the devastating floods that swept through the Texas hill  
977 country last summer.

978 And I think in Houston and across the State of Texas we  
979 are still heartbroken. We are still grieving. There are  
980 still green ribbons on the trees in my neighborhood for the  
981 neighbors that we lost in the flood. There were 135 people  
982 who were killed in the floods and the destruction of  
983 communities all along the Guadalupe River last summer. And  
984 people across Texas, generations of Texans, have gone to the  
985 hill country in the summer for that little bit of breeze that  
986 you can get and that slightly, only slightly, cooler weather.  
987 I spent my summers there growing up at a camp just down the  
988 river, and it is full of summer camps and church camps and  
989 camp sites for families, family homes. Just so many

990 generations of Texans have been in this beautiful and  
991 majestic part of our state. And last summer it became the  
992 place of an unthinkable tragedy.

993         And as I said, we are still trying to put the pieces  
994 back together. Some of those pieces will never be put back  
995 together, and the loss to the families that I represent is  
996 just incalculable. But I think this bill is a small but  
997 important way to provide a meaningful response, and it is a  
998 bipartisan effort to respond to these devastating floods, and  
999 to learn from this tragedy, and to try to mitigate some of  
1000 the pain and loss that our communities felt for communities  
1001 across the country so that they don't have to go through the  
1002 similar challenges in moments of emergency.

1003         And while there have been great strides that have been  
1004 made in telecommunications, there are still large sections of  
1005 our country that lack reliable and consistent cell service.  
1006 And unfortunately, that is one of the challenges that we saw  
1007 last summer. Whether it is in some dense urban areas to  
1008 rural communities, from camping spots to hiking trails, cell  
1009 coverage is not always guaranteed. And especially in the  
1010 hill country, reception is spotty and unreliable.

1011         So while some parts in some major towns have good  
1012 coverage, others do not. And in this time of heightened  
1013 connectivity a lack of cell service can make all the  
1014 difference in receiving a lifesaving emergency notification.

1015           So this bill addresses that communications gap. It  
1016 requires the FCC to encourage mobile service providers to  
1017 adopt satellite-alerting capabilities for emergency alerts.  
1018 The technology exists to notify people who lack cell service  
1019 of these life-threatening emergencies, but not every carrier  
1020 utilizes this technology, and everyone should be able to get  
1021 these alerts, you know, whether it is through their  
1022 traditional service or through this kind of emergency  
1023 alerting coverage. No one should miss a lifesaving emergency  
1024 alert because they don't have cell service. So by  
1025 encouraging mobile providers to adopt these capabilities,  
1026 this bill helps ensure that emergency alerts can reach people  
1027 no matter where they live, no matter what signal they have.

1028           And as I said earlier, you know, this is a small but  
1029 important way to learn a lesson from the tragedy in Texas  
1030 last summer and to put the pain and the loss and the grief of  
1031 the families that I represent and families across the State  
1032 of Texas and across the country into action, and to learn a  
1033 lesson from what we saw. Nothing can bring back those that  
1034 we lost in the flood, but we owe it to their survivors and to  
1035 everyone we represent to do everything we possibly can to try  
1036 to prevent another tragedy like the one that we saw last  
1037 summer. And so I am really glad to join Congressman Pfluger  
1038 and Congressman Veasey and Congressman Carter in leading this  
1039 effort, and I hope that everyone on the committee will join

1040 us in voting in favor of this bill.

1041 Thank you, and I yield back.

1042 \*The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back and  
1043 the chair recognizes Mr. Carter from Georgia for five minutes  
1044 to speak on the amendment.

1045 \*Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike  
1046 the last word.

1047 \*The Chair. The gentleman is recognized to speak on the  
1048 amendment.

1049 \*Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong  
1050 support of the bipartisan Mystic Alerts Act introduced by  
1051 Congressman Pfluger.

1052 Public safety is one of Congress's most serious  
1053 responsibilities, and this bill addresses a clear and urgent  
1054 gap in our emergency communications system.

1055 Like Congressman Pfluger, my family was directly  
1056 impacted by the Camp Mystic flooding in Texas. It was a  
1057 tragedy that demonstrated how quickly conditions can change  
1058 and how devastating the consequences can be when people do  
1059 not receive timely warnings. My twin granddaughters were at  
1060 this camp and for 10 hours, the longest 10 hours of my life,  
1061 I didn't know what was going on. I didn't know if they were  
1062 safe or if they weren't. They turned out to be safe, but,  
1063 unfortunately, their nine-year-old cousin, Janie Hunt,  
1064 succumbed to that flood and is now in heaven.

1065           While we have made real progress in delivering wireless  
1066 emergency alerts, recent disasters have shown that alerts can  
1067 fail when terrestrial networks are damaged, overloaded, or  
1068 unavailable, precisely when people need them the most. The  
1069 Mystic Alerts Act strengthens our emergency alerting  
1070 framework by directing the FCC to establish standards and  
1071 requirements to allow alerts to be delivered via satellite  
1072 connectivity, ensuring redundancy when traditional networks  
1073 are down.

1074           By incorporating satellite-based capabilities, this bill  
1075 helps ensure emergency alerts can reach rural communities,  
1076 disaster zones, and other hard-to-reach areas, improving  
1077 resilience and saving lives during floods, wildfires,  
1078 hurricanes, and other emergencies.

1079           This legislation honors the victims of the Camp Mystic  
1080 flood like Janie Hunt by taking meaningful action to prevent  
1081 similar tragedies and by making our emergency communication  
1082 system more reliable, modern, and resilient.

1083           I commend Congressman Pfluger for his leadership and the  
1084 other cosponsors of this bill and the bipartisan approach. I  
1085 urge my colleagues to support the Mystic Alerts Act.

1086           I thank you for your thoughts and prayers that have been  
1087 extended to my family. This is something that you don't get  
1088 over, and we will never get over it. But our family does  
1089 appreciate this very much, the efforts of this Congress to

1090 address this situation.

1091 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

1092 \*The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back, and  
1093 I think I can speak for the committee that our prayers are  
1094 continuing for you and Mr. Pfluger's family and all the  
1095 families in Mystic.

1096 Are there any further speakers on the amendment?

1097 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion the vote  
1098 occurs on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

1099 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

1100 All those opposed, nay.

1101 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

1102 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 7022, as  
1103 amended, and a roll call vote has been requested, and the  
1104 clerk will call the roll.

1105 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1106 \*Mr. Latta. Aye.

1107 \*The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

1108 Mr. Griffith?

1109 \*Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1110 \*The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

1111 Mr. Bilirakis?

1112 \*Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1113 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

1114 Mr. Hudson?

1115 \*Mr. Hudson. Aye.  
1116 \*The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.  
1117 Mr. Carter of Georgia?  
1118 \*Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.  
1119 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.  
1120 Mr. Palmer?  
1121 \*Mr. Palmer. Aye.  
1122 \*The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.  
1123 Mr. Dunn?  
1124 \*Mr. Dunn. Aye.  
1125 \*The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.  
1126 Mr. Crenshaw?  
1127 [No response.]  
1128 \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?  
1129 [No response.]  
1130 \*The Clerk. Mr. Weber?  
1131 [No response.]  
1132 \*The Clerk. Mr. Allen?  
1133 \*Mr. Allen. Aye.  
1134 \*The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.  
1135 Mr. Balderson?  
1136 \*Mr. Balderson. Aye.  
1137 \*The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.  
1138 Mr. Fulcher?  
1139 \*Mr. Fulcher. Aye.

1140 \*The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.  
1141 Mr. Pfluger?  
1142 \*Mr. Pfluger. Aye.  
1143 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.  
1144 Mrs. Harshbarger?  
1145 \*Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.  
1146 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.  
1147 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?  
1148 [No response.]  
1149 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?  
1150 \*Mrs. Cammack. Aye.  
1151 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.  
1152 Mr. Obernolte?  
1153 \*Mr. Obernolte. Aye.  
1154 \*The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.  
1155 Mr. James?  
1156 [No response.]  
1157 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?  
1158 \*Mr. Bentz. Aye.  
1159 \*The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.  
1160 Mrs. Houchin?  
1161 [No response.]  
1162 \*The Clerk. Mr. Fry?  
1163 \*Mr. Fry. Aye.  
1164 \*The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.

1165 Ms. Lee?  
1166 \*Ms. Lee. Aye.  
1167 \*The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.  
1168 Mr. Langworthy?  
1169 \*Mr. Langworthy. Aye.  
1170 \*The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.  
1171 Mr. Kean?  
1172 [No response.]  
1173 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?  
1174 \*Mr. Rulli. Aye.  
1175 \*The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.  
1176 Mr. Evans?  
1177 [No response.]  
1178 \*The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?  
1179 \*Mr. Goldman. Aye.  
1180 \*The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.  
1181 Mrs. Fedorchak?  
1182 \*Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.  
1183 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.  
1184 Mr. Pallone?  
1185 \*Mr. Pallone. Aye.  
1186 \*The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.  
1187 Ms. DeGette?  
1188 \*Ms. DeGette. Aye.  
1189 \*The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

1190 Ms. Schakowsky?  
1191 \*Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.  
1192 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.  
1193 Ms. Matsui?  
1194 \*Ms. Matsui. Aye.  
1195 \*The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.  
1196 Ms. Castor?  
1197 \*Ms. Castor. Aye.  
1198 \*The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.  
1199 Mr. Tonko?  
1200 \*Mr. Tonko. Aye.  
1201 \*The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.  
1202 Ms. Clarke?  
1203 \*Ms. Clarke. Aye.  
1204 \*The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.  
1205 Mr. Ruiz?  
1206 \*Mr. Ruiz. Aye.  
1207 \*The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.  
1208 Mr. Peters?  
1209 \*Mr. Peters. Aye.  
1210 \*The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.  
1211 Mrs. Dingell?  
1212 \*Mrs. Dingell. Aye.  
1213 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.  
1214 Mr. Veasey?

1215 \*Mr. Veasey. Aye.  
1216 \*The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.  
1217 Ms. Kelly?  
1218 \*Ms. Kelly. Aye.  
1219 \*The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.  
1220 Ms. Barragan?  
1221 \*Ms. Barragan. Aye.  
1222 \*The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.  
1223 Mr. Soto?  
1224 \*Mr. Soto. Aye.  
1225 \*The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.  
1226 Ms. Schrier?  
1227 \*Ms. Schrier. Aye.  
1228 \*The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.  
1229 Mrs. Trahan?  
1230 \*Mrs. Trahan. Aye.  
1231 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.  
1232 Mrs. Fletcher?  
1233 \*Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.  
1234 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.  
1235 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?  
1236 \*Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.  
1237 \*The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.  
1238 Mr. Auchincloss?  
1239 \*Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

1240 \*The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.  
1241 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?  
1242 \*Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.  
1243 \*The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.  
1244 Mr. Menendez?  
1245 \*Mr. Menendez. Aye.  
1246 \*The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.  
1247 Mr. Mullin?  
1248 \*Mr. Mullin. Aye.  
1249 \*The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.  
1250 Mr. Landsman?  
1251 \*Mr. Landsman. Aye.  
1252 \*The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.  
1253 Ms. McClellan?  
1254 \*Ms. McClellan. Aye.  
1255 \*The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.  
1256 Chairman Guthrie?  
1257 \*The Chair. Aye.  
1258 \*The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.  
1259 \*The Chair. Is there anyone seeking recognition?  
1260 The gentlelady from Iowa.  
1261 \*Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Miller-Meeks votes aye.  
1262 \*The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.  
1263 \*The Chair. Dr. Joyce.  
1264 \*Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

1265           \*The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.  
1266           \*The Chair. Mr. Weber.  
1267           \*Mr. Weber. Weber votes aye.  
1268           \*The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.  
1269           \*The Chair. Mrs. Houchin.  
1270           \*Mrs. Houchin. Houchin votes aye.  
1271           \*The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.  
1272           \*Mr. Evans. Mr. Evans votes aye.  
1273           \*The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.  
1274           \*The Chair. Is there anyone on the Democrat side?  
1275           Mr. James.  
1276           \*The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.  
1277           \*Mr. James. James is aye.  
1278           \*The Clerk. Mr. James is aye.  
1279           \*The Chair. Is there anyone on the Democrat side? You  
1280    have everybody?  
1281           Seeing none, is there anybody else to enter the roll?  
1282           Seeing none, the clerk will report.  
1283           \*The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were  
1284    52 ayes and 0 nays.  
1285           \*The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.  
1286           Without objection, the staff is authorized to make  
1287    technical and conforming changes to the legislation approved  
1288    by the committee today.  
1289           So ordered.

1290           And without objection, the committee stands adjourned.  
1291           [Whereupon, at 11:09 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]