

AMENDMENT TO DRAFT OVERSIGHT PLAN

Net Neutrality

CAT #1

Under the subheading “A MODERN FRAMEWORK FOR THE INNOVATION AGE” –

- (1) Strike everything after the sentence that ends “the same or similar service,” and add the following - “Similarly, the Committee is concerned that while millions of Americans and small businesses increasingly rely on broadband internet access service for a variety of daily needs such as telehealth, education, jobs and commerce, the delivery of the service is virtually unregulated, leaving consumers vulnerable to unjust and discriminatory practices by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and depriving the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the authority needed to oversee these networks to promote universal affordable service, public safety, and economic development. Accordingly, the Committee will examine whether this regulatory approach should be updated to better meet the communications needs of the country to adequately promote the public interest, protect consumers, and allow its citizens to enjoy cutting edge services and the economic benefits they bring.”
- (2) Insert new subsection under “COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES” titled “PRESERVING THE OPEN INTERNET AND PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM UNJUST AND UNREASONABLE PRACTICES” and the following paragraph – Preserving a free and open internet is critical to nearly every aspect of our 21st century society, drives nearly every sector of our economy, and promotes innovation and free speech. Yet internet service providers (ISPs) remain largely shielded from agency oversight and, as a result, key priorities remain unmet and consumers have little recourse when they are subjected to unreasonable practices or unjust discrimination, and yet Americans are relying on internet connectivity more than ever for all kinds of services and information. The Committee will conduct oversight on the effects of this regulatory approach to consumers and the public—including to free speech, competition, and affordable and accessible internet access for all. The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over broadband to ensure continued growth and investment in the internet precisely as it grew from 2015 to 2017, before contracting from 2018 to 2020; and ISPs to ensure that consumers are protected from predatory practices.