

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**Markup of H.R. 4889, H.R. 4167, H.R. 4884, H.R. 4111, H.R. 4190, H.R. 3998, H.R.**  
**2031**  
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*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

With this markup of seven bills, we look to build upon our proud record of success. Last week's legislative hearing, and the testimony we received from a wide variety of witnesses, underscored the collective importance of these bills and I'm pleased we are swiftly moving forward.

One of the most critical tasks before the Communications and Technology Subcommittee is ensuring effective communications laws for contacting and assisting public safety operations. Whether it's dialing 9-1-1, providing tools to law enforcement, or promoting connectivity during disasters, several of today's bills are intended to help Americans in times of emergency.

Kari's Law is the kind of simple and inexpensive fix that should be a no-brainer. However, without federal legislation, there's no guarantee that hotels, office buildings, and others using multi-line telephone systems will make the changes necessary to ensure that anyone who dials those familiar numbers, 9-1-1, reaches an emergency dispatcher, no matter what phone they dial from. Without a consistent nationwide law, someone who is staying in a hotel while traveling has no way of knowing whether their room phone will allow them to connect directly to 9-1-1. In fact, our witness last week, Hank Hunt, father of Kari for whom this law is named, told us the hotel he was staying in when he came to testify suffered from this very problem. We must end this discrepancy - there is no reason that any call to 9-1-1 should not go through because of a software setting on a phone system.

We also heard from the mother of Kelsey Smith, a young woman who was abducted and murdered just days after graduating from high school. It took several days for Kelsey's cell phone company to compile location data for her phone, which ultimately led authorities to find her remains. It was an agonizing time to wait, and Kelsey's mother Missey is working to change the law to help families locate a missing loved one who is in serious danger. The Kelsey Smith Act creates a narrow set of emergency circumstances where law enforcement can obtain location data for the wireless device of a person at risk of death, or serious injury. This law would not give access to the user's call information, data stored on their phone, or any other sensitive personal records. It simply allows law enforcement to use existing technology and readily available location data to help locate someone when every second counts. While privacy concerns were raised at our hearing last week, there are safeguards in place to prevent abuse of the law and the potential to help is so much greater than the potential for harm. The Kelsey Smith Act has passed in 22 states to date. It is time we passed it for the entire country.

I thank my colleagues on the subcommittee for working to draft and consider important legislation that will make a difference for folks across the country. The bills we will markup will modernize communications laws and continue to enable technology to improve the lives of folks back in Michigan and across the country.

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