

**Congressman Adam Kinzinger**  
*Statement for the Record*  
Markup—FCC Reauthorization  
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
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*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

I thank the Chair for holding this markup to move forward this important Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission.

As some of my colleagues have mentioned, the FCC has not been fully reauthorized in 27 years.

That means a wide swath of the population—roughly one-third of Americans—were born **after** the last FCC Reauthorization.

The irony here is that this younger generation is increasingly reliant upon the technologies that are regulated by the FCC.

In any event, I am glad to see this reauthorizing legislation moving forward.

I am also happy to see two important provisions included in the Chair's Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute.

The first is Title III of the Amendment, which contains my bill, H.R. 555, the Amateur Radio Parity Act.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act directs the FCC to amend regulations that currently hamper the ability for many operators

to effectively communicate with one another in certain areas around the country.

This bill helps to ensure amateur radio operators throughout the country are able to effectively communicate with one another.

I've personally used amateur radio through the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) while flying overseas, and I know firsthand the importance of having the lines of communication open and available in this system.

In times of emergency, when all other forms of communications have failed, it is amateur radio operators who volunteer to provide an invaluable public service.

Recently, we have seen these operators step up in the wake of the hurricanes that have ravaged Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the British Virgin Islands.

As we have seen, these operators serve as the last line of defense for the communications of our first responders and it's important that we support them.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act has **already passed** the House earlier this year, but has been inexplicably held up in the Senate.

I hope that by incorporating it into the FCC Reauthorization will break the logjam and offer the support to amateur radio operators all across the U.S. so they may continue both their hobby as well as their public service during times of need.

The second important provision is Section 606 of the Chair's Amendment, which contains the text of H.R. 3995, the Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act.

I am proud to have worked with Mr. McNerney of California to reintroduce this bill, which directs the FCC to produce a report examining the current state of veterans' access to broadband and what can be done to increase access, with a focus on low-income veterans and those living in rural areas.

Our veterans face many challenges when they return home, and closing the digital divide and getting connected is one way we can help alleviate part of their transition back to civilian life.

Broadband access will help our veterans connect with family and friends, apply for jobs, access information on benefits and health services, and so much more.

So again, I am grateful to have worked with Congressman McNerney on the Improving Broadband Access for Veterans Act, and I am grateful to the Chair for including both that bill and mine in her Amendment.

It is long past time we move forward on an FCC Reauthorization, and this particular effort includes a number of important reforms to improve the manner in which the agency operates.

I thank the Chair, and with that, I yield back.