

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**

**Opening Statement**

**of**

**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Ranking Member Mike Doyle**

**June 13, 2018**

***Markup of 4 Communications Bills***

First, I'd like to thank the Chair for convening this markup today. The legislation before us today addresses a number of pressing issues.

I'm happy to support the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act sponsored by Representatives Stewart and Bernice Johnson. The bill would require the FCC in coordination with SAMHSA to produce a study evaluating the feasibility of designating a 3-digit dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health hotline system, and to evaluate the current hotline.

The recent tragic deaths of Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain have highlighted the need for renewed focus on the threat of suicide. A recently released study by the CDC found that suicide rates have risen nearly 30 percent since 1999. In my home state of Pennsylvania, the rate has risen by 34%.

I hope that we can work together to advance this legislation and help to address this critical threat.

I'd just like to add that my city, like so many others, was profiled by Anthony Bourdain. For a long time people didn't go to Pittsburgh or think about Pittsburgh as a food destination, but that's changing and Bourdain came to our city to highlight how far the city has come and how much we have to offer. In his way, he also highlighted the challenges we face as well.

My hope is that we can help address this issue, to avoid future tragedies like this one, and so many others.

The Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act or Pirate Act, sponsored by Representatives Lance and Tonko aims to reduce unauthorized radio broadcasts. I'm happy to see the changes that have been made to this bill, I hope we can continue to work on it in order to address broadcaster's concerns.

The Access Broadband Act, sponsored by Representatives Tonko and Lance establishes an Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within NTIA. The bill would require that this new office engage in a number of activities intended to enhance broadband deployment, share best practices, and accelerate adoption. This legislation is a step in the right direction, but if we want to address the deployment and adoption challenges facing our nation, particularly in low income and rural communities we need to do more, and we need to dedicate more resources to this task.

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The FCC's ill-conceived actions on Lifeline and the Mobility Fund 2 debacle, high light the need for congressional oversight and greater direction from the Committee.

Finally, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act, sponsored by Representatives Latta and Loeb sack addresses technological and connectivity challenges to deployment of precision agriculture. This is a great example of how advanced technologies such as GPS, mobile broadband, and potentially autonomous vehicles can enhance productivity in rural America. I'm excited about the promise of this technology and look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this legislation.