

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology Member Anna G. Eshoo
Markup of 11 Bills, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
July 12, 2023

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is the primary agency dedicated to managing spectrum for federal use, expanding broadband access, and developing federal policy on the internet economy.

The NTIA was last reauthorized in 1992 when the internet was in its infancy. The internet and wireless technology have changed significantly in the last 30 years, and it's important that we modernize the agency's mission and provide the resources it needs to carry out that mission.

Congress has tasked the NTIA with distributing \$65 billion in funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to help connect Americans to reliable, affordable broadband. The NTIA announced its allocations to each state at the end of last month, including \$1.8 billion for California. These funds will help bridge the digital divide and better connect our nation, and the agency must be fully funded to ensure it can effectively implement this program.

I'm pleased that today's bipartisan reauthorization includes two of my bills to address cybersecurity threats. The American Cybersecurity Literacy Act which I co-led with Rep. Obernolte, requires the NTIA to conduct a public education campaign to improve Americans' cyber literacy. Through the campaign, the NTIA will provide information about common cybersecurity risks and best practices to mitigate those risks.

The reauthorization also includes the Understanding Cybersecurity of Mobile Networks Act which I introduced with Rep. Cammack. This important bill requires the NTIA to study the cybersecurity vulnerabilities of mobile networks and report those findings to Congress. Every day, Americans make calls, send texts, and access data on 2G, 3G, and 4G networks, but we lack a full understanding of their vulnerabilities, what issues have been resolved, and where mobile cybersecurity policymaking should be focused. Americans need to trust the networks they use and be confident that Congress is working to ensure those networks are safe, and this bill will help us accomplish that.

Finally, the NTIA jointly administers the National 911 Program with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Most 911 call centers still use legacy technology developed over 50 years ago, and Rep. Hudson and I introduced the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act to help states and local governments modernize their call centers through a grant program administered by the NTIA. While this bill was considered in our NTIA hearing, it is not part of

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today's reauthorization because it was already included in the Spectrum Auction Reauthorization Act that we marked up in May.

Both the Spectrum Auction Reauthorization and the NTIA Reauthorization Act are necessary to ensure the NTIA is fully equipped to address 21st century challenges and expand access to broadband and modern public safety communications technology. I urge my colleagues to support these bills.