

Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Legislative Hearing
“Examining Legislation to Establish a Federal Comprehensive Privacy and Data Security Law”

June 3, 2026

Good morning, and thank you, Chairman Bilirakis and thank you to our witnesses for being here, in particular Ashli Watts, CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Federal comprehensive privacy reform is long overdue. The American digital economy is worth \$4.9 trillion—larger than the GDPs of Japan and India—and it supports 28.4 million jobs. This scale really underscores what is at stake.

It is crucial that we maintain U.S. leadership in digital innovation while ensuring Americans have meaningful control over their personal data. We need a federal privacy and data security standard that balances sensible and uniform protections for all Americans, with continued U.S. leadership in digital technologies.

I believe the SECURE Data Act achieves that balance.

I want to recognize Dr. Joyce's leadership of the Privacy Working Group and the contributions of each of the Working Group members. The SECURE Data Act is the culmination of 15 months of difficult work and extensive stakeholder engagement.

The work we have done has earned support from small businesses, manufacturers, energy producers, restaurants, retailers, civil society groups, nonprofits, and more. I'm hopeful that we can use this momentum to find some common ground on this bill, which resembles the privacy standards both Republicans and Democrats have already enacted at the state level.

With that, I yield the balance of my time to Dr. Joyce.