H. R. 11

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study on network resiliency during times of emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ____________

A BILL

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study on network resiliency during times of emergency, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act”.

SEC. 2. STUDY ON NETWORK RESILIENCY.

Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress, and
make publically available on the Commission’s website, a study on the public safety benefits and technical feasibility and cost of—

(1) making telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points, and other communications technologies operating on unlicensed spectrum, available to the general public for access to 9–1–1 services, without requiring any login credentials, during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable;

(2) the provision by non-telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points of public access to 9–1–1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable; and

(3) other alternative means of providing the public with access to 9–1–1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable.

SEC. 3. ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS DURING FEDERALLY DECLARED EMERGENCIES.

Section 427(a)(1)(A) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189e(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “telecommunications service” and inserting “wireline or mobile telephone service, Internet access service, radio or television
broadcasting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite
service.”

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

(1) the term “Commission” means the Federal
Communications Commission;

(2) the term “mobile service” means commercial
mobile service (as defined in section 332 of the
Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332)) or
commercial mobile data service (as defined in section
6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-
ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401));

(3) the term “WiFi access point” means wire-
less Internet access using the standard designated as
802.11 or any variant thereof; and

(4) the term “times of emergency” means ei-
ther an emergency as defined in section 102 of the
Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), or an emergency
as declared by the governor of a State or territory
of the United States.