

**Statement of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11)**  
**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**  
***Full Committee Business Meeting***  
**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

I thank Chairwoman Maloney for bringing these important pieces of legislation to the Committee's attention today, including my bill the Telework Metrics and Cost Savings Act of 2022 (H.R. 7951). The bills on the agenda advocate for accurate representation of the LGBTQ community; protect census integrity; modernize federal telework law; and update the District of Columbia's legislation transmission rules to meet modern-day practices.

***H.R. 4176, The LGBTQ Data Inclusion Act***

This bill would require federal agencies that collect demographic survey data to assess methods for incorporating questions about sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) into existing surveys, where appropriate. Responses to SOGI inquiries would be voluntary. In addition, data on sexual orientation and gender identity would be published with the relevant agency data sets, while maintaining privacy and confidentiality standards. Finally, H.R. 4176 seeks to address existing data gaps in national SOGI information, which could expand services to applicable demographics. I am a proud co-sponsor of this bill. June is Pride month, and it is essential we honor and celebrate the sacrifices and successes of the LGBTQ rights movement. No one should be treated differently because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. That is why, as a lifelong advocate for equal rights and marriage equality, I look forward to moving this bill out of committee and through the House and Senate to enactment.

***H.R. 5815, The Honest Census Communications Act***

This bill would prohibit individuals from calling, texting, or otherwise communicating false information about the census to anyone in an attempt to impede or prevent them from participating in the count. The bill establishes penalties for the communications it prohibits, including a fine of up to \$11,181 per false or misleading communication or imprisonment of up to five years – or both. The bill, which I am proud to co-sponsor, applies to the decennial census counts and other federal censuses like the U.S. Economic Census, which is being conducted this year.

***H.R. 7951, Telework Metrics and Cost Savings Act of 2022***

I am proud to sponsor H.R. 7951, the Telework Metrics and Cost Savings Act with the support of my colleague, Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD). This bill takes lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and applies them to strengthen and expand the federal government's telework posture. Specifically, this bill aims to empower the Office of Personnel and Management (OPM) to develop standards for the collection and use of federal agency data to facilitate telework; promote transparency and accountability for federal telework programs; and finally, promote best telework practices across government. This bill aims to modernize federal telework laws, ensuring supervisors get training and support to engage a teleworking workforce and helping the federal government compete with the private sector for talent. The bill's provisions seek measure telework's cost savings and ensure our nation is prepared to continue operations in any context. This bill helps drive the federal workforce into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The bill is endorsed by National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), the Federal Managers Association (FMA), the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE).

***H.R. 7941, To Permit the District of Columbia to Transmit Acts of the District to Congress in Electronic Form***

As a strong supporter of D.C. Statehood, I think the Senate should take up the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51) and admit DC as the 51<sup>st</sup> state in the Union. In lieu of immediate action by the Senate, the least we can do is take every step possible to alleviate the arbitrary control Congress exerts over the D.C. local government. This bill, H.R. 7941, would be one such measure and would permit the District of Columbia to transmit legislation to Congress in electronic form. Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, the Chair of the D.C. Council is required to transmit D.C. enacted legislation to Congress for a review period, with limited exceptions. D.C. legislation takes effect upon the expiration of the review period unless a joint resolution of disapproval is enacted during the review period. Neither the D.C. Home Rule Act nor the rules of the House or Senate prescribe the form of transmittal, but the House and Senate permit the Chair to transmit legislation only in paper form. This bill would amend the D.C. Home Rule Act to permit the Chair of the D.C. Council to transmit legislation in such form as the Chair may choose, including electronic form. In addition, the bill would deem the amendment to the D.C. Home Rule Act a part of the rules of the House and Senate.