

Opening Statement of Ranking Member Gus M. Bilirakis
House Energy and Commerce Full Committee
“Markup of Six Bills”
July 20, 2022
(As Prepared for Delivery)

Good morning everyone, and thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this important markup to move forward six Consumer Protection & Commerce bills through the Energy & Commerce Committee. This is a historic moment, considering this is the furthest that Congress has come in enacting a national privacy and data security law with the consideration of our bipartisan bill, H.R. 8152, the American Data Privacy and Protection Act. I’m proud of the bipartisan work that we have done in our Subcommittee to this point to put this comprehensive package together, and have refined significantly since our draft was first released. While I know our work is not done, and I’m glad that every Member on this great Committee will be able to consider this legislation and weigh in as we continue to improve this product, I want to take a moment to recognize the importance of this markup and all the work we have been able to accomplish since we moved this bill past the subcommittee. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and with our friends in the Senate to get this done. This is the best opportunity we’ve had in years to give the American people and businesses something that has long been needed.

In addition to our privacy and data security bill, we also have five other bipartisan bills that came out of our recent Subcommittee markup last month. That included my bill H.R. 4551, the RANSOMWARE Act, which will provide more clarity on how to combat ransomware and other cyber-attacks. It also included a bill I was proud to cosponsor, H.R. 5313, Reese’s Law, which will address consumer product safety standards for button cell batteries that pose as an ingestion hazard for children. I want to highlight the work my friend and colleague John Curtis is doing with his bill, H.R. 4081, the Informing Consumers About Smart Devices Act, which will provide consumers with transparency for home devices that have hidden microphones and cameras. Lastly, I want to thank Rep. Armstrong for his bipartisan work in modernizing our notarization processes, and Reps. Tonko and Upton for providing clarity and ease of access at the Department of Commerce for our country’s manufacturers.

I’m hopeful my colleagues will help move all of these important bipartisan bills forward through to the House Floor and work to get them across the finish line. Again, thank you Mr. Chairman and I yield back.