

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery

of

The Honorable Kathy Castor

Markup of Six Bills

July 20, 2022

Passage of the American Data and Privacy Protection Act will be a very important step to protect the online privacy of Americans, especially our kids.

I want to thank Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Rodgers, Chair Schakowsky, and Ranking Member Bilirakis for incorporating a large portion of my Kids PRIVCY Act and KIDS Act into the bill.

I also want to thank the other Members who have supported it along the way: Representatives Clarke, Trahan, Rice, Soto, Tonko, Cardenas, DeGette and Schrier.

But I also want to thank the parents and advocates who have been working to shore up better online privacy protections for years.

I think we can all agree that children shouldn't be tracked and targeted online and exposed to mental and physical harms.

Americans expect that their personal information will be kept private, and this bipartisan bill moves us towards that goal.

This bill will take a significant step in the right direction: We ban targeted advertising to kids.

We create a new Youth Privacy and Marketing Division to focus on privacy and marketing specifically for our kids. And I am particularly grateful that we have strengthened the knowledge provisions to ensure that we are protecting our kid's personal data.

Congress must take aggressive action to protect children online. We must do all we can to ensure companies are doing everything they can to mitigate risks that young users may face. And we must keep working to ensure that, when companies are designing and developing products, they put the best interests of our children first.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to advance this bill and improve the well-being of children online.

Thank you.