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6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 10170, THE MEMORY CHIP COMPETITIVENESS ASSESSMENT ACT;

8 H.R. 10158, THE AUTOMOTIVE NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT
9 OF 2026;

10 H.R. 10152, THE OPEN-SOURCE AI LEADERSHIP ACT;

11 H.R. 6207, THE CHIP EQUIP ACT;

12 H.R. 10163, THE AMERICAN QUANTUM COMPETITIVENESS ACT;

13 H.R. 6832, THE PACKAGING AND CLAIMS KNOWLEDGE (PACK) ACT OF
14 2025;

15 H.R. 7502, THE RECYCLED MATERIALS ATTRIBUTION ACT;

16 H.R. 9385, THE PROTECT USA ACT OF 2025;

17 H.R. 6488, THE REDUCING EXPLOITATIVE SOCIAL MEDIA EXPOSURE
18 FOR TEENS (RESET) ACT;

19 H.R. 7945, THE NITROUS OXIDE SAFETY ACT OF 2026;

20 H.R. 2713, THE MITIGATING AUTOMATED INTERNET NETWORKS FOR
21 (MAIN) EVENT TICKETING ACT; AND

22 H.R. 5967, THE STRATEGIC TASK FORCE ON SCAM PREVENTION
23 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

24 House of Representatives,

25 Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade,

26 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

27 Washington, D.C.

28 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:17 a.m. in
29 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Gus
30 Bilirakis, [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

31 Present: Representatives Bilirakis, Fulcher, Cammack,
32 Bentz, Houchin, Lee, Kean, Evans, Goldman, Guthrie (ex
33 officio); Schakowsky, Castor, Soto, Trahan, Mullin, Clarke,
34 Dingell, Veasey, Kelly, Schrier, and Pallone (ex officio).

35 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
36 Byron Brown, Chief Counsel; Jessica Donlon, General Counsel;
37 Sydney Greene, Director of Finance and Logistics; Natalie
38 Hellman, Professional Staff Member; Annabelle Huffman, Policy
39 Analyst; Megan Jackson, Staff Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk;
40 Olivia Jensen, Staff Assistant; AT Johnson, Special Advisor;
41 Adam Joseph, Digital Director; Daniel Kelly, Press Secretary;
42 Brayden Lacefield, Special Assistant; Giulia Leganski, Chief
43 Counsel; Madeline Martinez, Staff Assistant; Joel Miller,
44 Deputy Staff Director; Ben Mullaney, Press Secretary; Ryan
45 Murphy, Director of Member Services; Brice Ogle, Special
46 Assistant; Evangelos Razis, Professional Staff Member; Claire
47 Richey, Clerk; Jake Riith, Staff Assistant; Jackson Rudden,
48 Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member Services/Stakeholder Director;
49 Dray Thorne, Director of Information Technology; Timothy
50 Trimble, Staff Assistant; Matt VanHyfte, Communications
51 Director; Katie West, Press Secretary; Kelly Fabian, Minority
52 Chief Counsel; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director

53 and General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff
54 Director; Perry Hamilton, Minority Deputy Director, Member
55 Services, and Outreach; Megan Kanne, Minority Professional
56 Staff Member; Serena Klebba, Minority Staff Assistant; and
57 Hannah Treger, Minority Staff Assistant.

58

59 *Mr. Bilirakis. Good morning, everyone, and thank you
60 for being here today. Today's markup brings together a dozen
61 bills that reflect two of this committee's priorities:
62 protecting American consumers and strengthening America's
63 competitiveness. I am proud of the bipartisan work that has
64 gone into these important initiatives. American consumers
65 deserve better protections in the marketplace, and these
66 bills go a long way towards earning back consumers' trust.

67 The Strategic Task Force on Scam Prevention Act is
68 necessary to ensure that relevant federal agencies coordinate
69 their efforts to identify emerging scams and develop
70 strategies to prevent Americans from becoming victims in the
71 first place.

72 The MAIN Event Ticketing Act builds on our prior work by
73 cracking down on the bots and bad actors that have made
74 buying a concert ticket feel like a rigged game, really.

75 And when it comes to what is actually in the products
76 families buy and what claim companies make about them, the
77 PACK Act and the Recycled Materials Attribution Act bring
78 much-needed transparency to recycling claims.

79 In addition to advancing proposals that protect
80 consumers, we are also pushing back against the Chinese
81 Communist Party. The Chip EQUIP Act ensures that companies
82 _ receive CHIPS Act funding aren't turning around and buying
83 manufactured equipment from firms owned or controlled by the

84 Chinese Government.

85 The Memory Chip Competitiveness Assessment Act and the
86 American Quantum Competitive [sic] Act direct the Commerce
87 Department to get serious about where our supply chains are
88 vulnerable and how we out-compete China in the technologies
89 that matter most.

90 Finally, the Automotive National and Economic Security
91 Act shines a light on how deeply our auto industry's
92 relationship with foreign adversaries goes.

93 I look forward to moving these bills to the full
94 committee and then to the House floor. I want to thank you
95 all, and I want to thank all my colleagues on both sides of
96 the aisle who have worked diligently _ and I want to thank
97 the staff, as well _ to protect consumers and bolster
98 American competitiveness.

99 So I will yield back, and I am going to recognize _
100 *Voice. Chairman Guthrie.

101 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, yes, I am going to recognize
102 Chairman Guthrie for his opening statement.

103 *The Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the
104 recognition. And I _ good morning. I thank everybody for
105 being here.

106 American businesses and workers have built some of the
107 world's most important industries, and our economy and
108 communities have benefitted tremendously from that

109 leadership. Maintaining America's edge requires an ongoing
110 commitment to innovation, resilient supply chains, and a
111 marketplace where American businesses can compete on the
112 world stage. That is why I am pleased we are advancing
113 legislation that will help the United States at the forefront
114 of these critical sectors.

115 Two bills today focus on recycling and take a practical
116 approach to strengthening _ to strengthen domestic
117 manufacturing and support American businesses; provide much-
118 needed clarity to consumers about the products they buy every
119 day; and establishing clearer standards for recycling claims
120 so we can better support the development of new, innovative
121 technologies. Both bills promote transparency, protect
122 consumers, and give businesses greater certainty as they
123 develop and market their products.

124 Today we will also defend American businesses and
125 workers from foreign, burdensome regulatory mandates like the
126 European Union's corporate sustainability due diligence
127 directive. It is unthinkable that American businesses should
128 be forced to comply with costly foreign regulations that
129 duplicate at best or, more likely, conflict with U.S. law.

130 We are considering legislation focused on some of the
131 technologies that will define our economic future, such as
132 open source AI, memory chips, quantum, and equipment needed
133 for advanced manufacturing.

134 Finally, we will also consider legislation that
135 recognizes the strategic role of the automotive industry and
136 the adverse impact of China on both car buyers and car
137 producers.

138 Taken together, these bills help position American
139 businesses and workers to compete and succeed in the
140 industries that are shaping our future. I thank my
141 colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their work on these
142 important issues, and I do thank both sides for working hard
143 to make as much of this as we can bipartisan. It has really
144 been a rewarding work, and I really appreciate it.

145 And I will yield back.

146 *Mr. Bilirakis. The chairman yields back, and now I
147 will recognize the ranking member of the full committee, Mr.
148 Pallone, for his five minutes for an opening statement.

149 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

150 Today we are considering legislation on everything from
151 event ticketing to semiconductors, and I am glad to see
152 several bipartisan bills being included at today's markup,
153 including bills that protect consumers from dangerous
154 products, predatory scams, and unscrupulous ticketing
155 practices as well as bills strengthening America's global
156 competitiveness.

157 Representative Mullin's Nitrous Oxide Safety Act will
158 end preventable deaths due to dangerous nitrous oxide

159 products which are currently widely available at gas
160 stations.

161 The Strategic Task Force on Scam Prevention Act,
162 sponsored by Representatives Menendez and Houchin, will bring
163 a whole-of-government approach to combating scams which
164 continue to plague consumers, particularly older Americans.

165 And the MAIN Event Ticketing Act from Representatives
166 Carter of Louisiana and Harshbarger brings a much-needed
167 update to our existing law addressing ticketing bots,
168 strengthening it to put more tickets in the hands of real,
169 real fans. And these bipartisan bills will help protect
170 consumers.

171 Meanwhile, the Memory Chip Competitiveness Assessment
172 Act from Representatives Soto and Miller-Meeks will shed
173 light on how to address the current memory chip shortage
174 which is raising prices for consumer devices.

175 And the Automotive and Economic Security Act from
176 Representatives Dingell and Harshbarger will clarify the
177 extent to which U.S. vehicle manufacturers are relying on
178 China.

179 Additionally, the Chip EQUIP Act will ensure that CHIPS
180 and Science Act dollars are not used to bolster our
181 adversaries' capacity.

182 I support these three bills that will help strengthen
183 our nation's global competitiveness.

184 I do have concerns, though, Mr. Chairman, with two other
185 partisan bills before us on American competitiveness and AI
186 and quantum. America must lead in these areas, but I can't
187 support these bills in the current form, given vague language
188 included in the legislation and open-ended authority they
189 give to Commerce Secretary Lutnick. I hope to continue
190 engaging stakeholders on these bills and working across the
191 aisle with my colleagues to reach a compromise, as I know we
192 all want to see America lead in AI as well as in quantum.

193 I also can't support and I am hard pressed to see a path
194 forward on other bills being considered at this markup. The
195 PACT Act and the Recycled Materials Attribution Act would
196 increase consumer mistrust in recycling by greenlighting
197 deceptive recycling labels and permitting inflated recycled
198 content claims. And if we are going to be setting recycling
199 policy, the Environmental Protection Agency should be taking
200 the lead, not the Federal Trade Commission.

201 Meanwhile, the PROTECT USA Act forces American companies
202 to choose between complying with European sustainability
203 regulations or violating the act, which is an impossible
204 choice. We should be focusing on working together with our
205 allies to compete with China, not fighting one another.

206 And finally, I was dismayed to see the RESET Act
207 included on our agenda today not because we shouldn't always
208 be thinking of how we can improve protections for kids; we

209 should. But the amended RESET Act text offered today
210 directly contradicts the bipartisan KIDS Act, a comprehensive
211 online safety package that we passed through the committee,
212 as well as the House, on suspension. So I am concerned this
213 bill will move us backward, not forward, on real solutions
214 that can become law.

215 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
216 my time.

217 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman yields back. I
218 appreciate that.

219 The chair reminds members that, pursuant to the
220 committee rules, all members' opening statements will be part
221 of the record. Are there further opening statements?

222 Yes, Mr. Mullin, you are recognized for five minutes for
223 your opening statement _ three minutes, actually, for your
224 opening statement.

225 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Chair Bilirakis and Ranking
226 Member Schakowsky, for including my bill, H.R. 7945, the
227 Nitrous Oxide Safety Act, in today's markup.

228 Too many families have been devastated by the impacts of
229 nitrous oxide misuse. We need to end consumer sales of this
230 dangerous and addictive substance. Inhaling the gas just
231 once can lead to death or devastating health impacts that can
232 change a person's life forever.

233 I would like to recognize the dozens of family members

234 from across the country who have taken it upon themselves to
235 organize and come to D.C. tomorrow for _ to advocate for
236 passage of the Nitrous Oxide Safety Act. Some are parents
237 and loved ones of the victims pictured behind me.

238 By passing the Nitrous Oxide Safety Act we can limit
239 consumer access and help prevent families from experiencing
240 the loss of a loved one due to nitrous oxide misuse. I will
241 have more to say on the topic later.

242 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield back.

243 *Mr. Bilirakis. I appreciate that. Is there anyone
244 else on the Republican side that wishes to have an opening
245 statement?

246 The Democratic side?

247 Yes, you are recognized. You are recognized, Ms.
248 Clarke, for three minutes.

249 *Ms. Clarke. Thank you very much. Good morning and
250 thank you once again, Chairman Bilirakis and Ranking Member
251 Schakowsky, for holding this markup today.

252 While I don't agree with every bill before our
253 subcommittee today, I am happy to see some bills put forth
254 that would address real-world issues impacting consumers.
255 Bills like the Strategic Task Force on Scam Prevention Act
256 and the MAIN Event Ticketing Act provide essential protection
257 for consumers who have fallen victim to complex or incessant
258 scams, or folks who pay higher ticketing prices when they

259 have to fight bots for tickets to their favorite events. I
260 applaud my colleagues who have taken up these initiatives.

261 But we must also admit where government falls short.
262 The Trump Administration and their Project 2025 handbook has
263 systematically undermined the FTC and the Consumer Product
264 Safety Commission, the very agencies set out to protect
265 Americans from scams and ensure a fair market. For the last
266 30 years the FTC has taken bipartisan action to protect
267 Americans from deceptive practices, bringing cases against
268 scammers who impersonate businesses or con artists who target
269 senior citizens. It is simple: consumer protection does not
270 exist without the agencies equipped and ready to enforce.

271 My Republican colleagues need to acknowledge that
272 Project 2025 was not a lie. The Trump Administration is
273 directly inhibiting consumer rights and protections. And
274 while we can continue to put forth well-intentioned
275 legislation, it will ultimately fall short if we lack proper
276 enforcement agencies.

277 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my
278 time.

279 *Mr. Bilirakis. Now we will go ahead and we will call
280 up H.R. 10170 and ask the clerk to report.

281 *The Clerk. H.R. 10170, a bill to require the Secretary
282 of Commerce to conduct a study on the marketplace for
283 advanced memory technologies.

284 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
285 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
286 amendment at any point.

287 So ordered.

288 [The bill follows:]

289

290 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

291

292 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
293 the bill?

294 Okay, why don't you _ if no one needs to be recognized _
295 oh, yes. Okay, okay. Mr. Goldman, you are recognized.

296 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I speak in
297 support of the Memory Chip Competitiveness Assessment Act led
298 by my colleague, Mrs. Miller-Meeks and Mr. Soto.

299 Memory chips are foundational to the modern economy,
300 powering everything from automobiles and medical devices to
301 consumer electronics and industrial equipment. The rapid
302 growth of AI is driving unprecedented demand for advanced
303 memory chips. Recent supply constraints have threatened this
304 critical industry and highlighted vulnerabilities in our
305 semiconductor supply chains. The Memory Chip Competitiveness
306 Assessment Act directs the Department of Commerce to evaluate
307 the advanced memory chip market, looking at demand, prices,
308 supply, shortages, trends, and the influence of countries of
309 concern. It also requires Commerce to identify any laws,
310 regulations that are slowing down the development and supply
311 of these chips and explore ways to fix them.

312 This information will help policy-makers strengthen
313 American chip production, build a more reliable supply chain,
314 and reduce our dependance on risky foreign sources. I am
315 proud to support this bill and, again, I thank the sponsors
316 for their bipartisan leadership on this important issue.

317 And I yield back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

318 *Mr. Bilirakis. I thank the gentleman. Now I recognize
319 Mr. Soto for his _ for five minutes on this particular bill.

320 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

321 America must continue to lead in the artificial
322 intelligence race. Otherwise, our rivals will certainly fill
323 in the void. The bipartisan Memory Chips Competitiveness Act
324 [sic] with Representative Miller-Meeks and I is trying to do
325 just that, to help make sure we are continuing to be
326 competitive in AI going forward.

327 The pandemic exposed the U.S.'s lack of chip production
328 capacity. We saw cars, computers, electronics all lacking
329 chips over that period of time, and this committee came
330 together in a bipartisan fashion to pass the CHIPS Act to
331 boost that capacity and research.

332 We are proud in central Florida at Neocity to develop
333 aerospace and AI microchips, and now we have this next
334 generation of efforts, the efforts to develop AI to _ and
335 make sure we have enough advanced memory chips. These are
336 critical for the development of these supercomputers. They
337 feed massive amounts of data to process information instantly
338 and prevent expensive computing cores from sitting idle.

339 The U.S. is facing a severe memory chip shortage for AI
340 because domestic production of advanced, high-bandwidth
341 memory, HBM, will not reach mass volume until late 2028,

342 according to the Center for Strategic and International
343 Studies. Our bill will help the U.S. Department of Commerce
344 to assess the market here in the United States for the
345 advanced memory chips and to report to Congress. It will
346 help us boost capacity, find efficiencies, continue research
347 and development, and ensure our global competitiveness. And
348 I am proud to be able to help sponsor this important
349 bipartisan bill.

350 And I yield back.

351 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman yields back. Is there
352 any further discussion on the bill?

353 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

354 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
355 10170 to the full committee.

356 All those in favor, say aye.

357 Those opposed, say no.

358 Okay, the ayes have it and the bill is agreed to and
359 forwarded to the full committee.

360 Okay, now we will call up _ the chair calls up H.R.
361 10158 and the _ and asks the clerk to report.

362 *The Clerk. H.R. 10158, a bill to require the Secretary
363 of Commerce to conduct a study on the National and Economic
364 Security risk _

365 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
366 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

367 amendment at any point.

368 So ordered.

369 [The bill follows:]

370

371 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

372

373 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
374 the bill?

375 Okay. Is Mrs. Dingell here?

376 *Voice. No.

377 *Mr. Bilirakis. Oh, okay. All right. Does anyone else
378 need to be recognized on the bill? Is there any further
379 discussion on the bill?

380 Are there any amendments to the bill?

381 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
382 10158 to the full committee.

383 All those in favor, say aye.

384 Those opposed, no.

385 The ayes have it. The ayes have it and the bill is
386 agreed to and forwarded to the full committee.

387 Okay, the chair calls up H.R. 10152 and asks the clerk
388 to report.

389 *The Clerk. H.R. 10152, a bill to direct the Secretary
390 of Commerce to support the adoption and use of _

391 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
392 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
393 amendment at any point. So ordered.

394 [The bill follows:]

395

396 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

397

398 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
399 the bill?

400 Yes, yes.

401 *Mr. Evans. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

402 *Mr. Bilirakis. You are recognized. You are
403 recognized.

404 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I am proud to
405 speak in strong support of my bill today, the Open-Source AI
406 Leadership Act. This legislation targets a serious problem.

407 While American companies are leading the world in
408 proprietary AI models, we are increasingly falling behind the
409 Communist Chinese in the market for open source and open
410 weight alternatives. Today companies such as Anthropic,
411 OpenAI, and Google are household names. Less well known are
412 the open source and open weight AI models that are being
413 adopted across the economy and around the world because they
414 are cheaper, customizable, and provide greater control to
415 organizations.

416 Unfortunately, the companies that are leading in the
417 open source and open weight models are Alibaba, DeepSeek, and
418 Moonshot, and these are deeply intertwined with the Chinese
419 Communist Party. My bill tackles this issue head on by
420 promoting the proliferation and adoption of innovative
421 American open source models while encouraging common-sense
422 guardrails to protect users.

423 The bill does a couple of things. First, it directs the
424 Secretary of Commerce to take action to support the adoption
425 of U.S. open source and open weight AI models, including by
426 appointing a single point of contact in the department to
427 promote American alternatives to China. Second, it mandates
428 that the Commerce Department assess the risks associated with
429 the adoption of Chinese open source and open weight models,
430 and make these reports publicly available.

431 As we heard in the hearing on this, small businesses and
432 startups, innovators, entrepreneurs, job creators here in the
433 U.S. are looking for cost-effective solutions to compete in a
434 global economy, and they are increasingly using these open
435 source and open weight models, which means it is essential to
436 know what security risks they pose to our small businesses
437 and our job creators here in the United States.

438 And I will remind my colleagues that just a few weeks
439 ago we saw news break about how high-end United Kingdom Navy
440 drone boats, special forces technology, were found to be
441 secretly transmitting data to the Chinese. We know that this
442 is a threat, and so that is why American leadership in the AI
443 race, especially the open source component of it, is so
444 essential.

445 After the legislative hearing where the Open-Source AI
446 Leadership Act was discussed, an open letter signed by some
447 of the most important and innovative companies in the world

448 was published urging the United States to prioritize the
449 development of open source AI. Companies like Nvidia,
450 Microsoft, and IBM put aside their differences to make a
451 unified call for legislation just like this. And I will
452 close my remarks by quoting from that letter directly. "The
453 age of AI can be one of prosperity. With the right choices,
454 open weight AI can expand opportunities, strengthen
455 competition, extend American technological leadership,
456 mitigate risk, and ensure that the benefits of this
457 extraordinary technology are shared broadly across our
458 economy.'`

459 The future is worth building, and the United States
460 should lead in building it. I urge my colleagues to join me
461 in supporting this bill that protects American jobs and
462 American leadership.

463 And I yield back.

464 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. I thank Mr. Evans. And
465 does anyone else seek recognition on the bill?

466 For what purpose does the gentleman seek recognition?

467 *Mr. Pallone. To strike the last word.

468 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. You are recognized for five
469 minutes, sir.

470 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I share the
471 goal of this legislation to promote America's leadership in
472 open source artificial intelligence. Open source software

473 has been an essential component of U.S. technological
474 leadership since the internet revolution by driving
475 innovation, efficiency, and security, and we should continue
476 that leadership into the age of AI.

477 However, I am concerned that this bill gives the
478 Secretary of Commerce the open-ended authority to take _ and
479 I quote _ any action as appropriate to address barriers and
480 promote U.S. open source AI without adequately tailoring such
481 authority. And I have concerns about this vague language and
482 how it can be abused by Commerce Secretary Lutnick.

483 I also think this bill could benefit from additional
484 stakeholder feedback and edits, including a more nuanced
485 discussion of the potential risks posed by domestic open
486 source AI models, not just those posed by foreign adversary
487 open source models, which I am glad to see addressed, as well
488 as consideration of the differences between open weight and
489 open source models.

490 Ultimately, I am hopeful that we can work across the
491 aisle to make this bill bipartisan in the future, and I look
492 forward to working with stakeholders and my colleagues on
493 this important issue. Today I will be voting no on H.R.
494 10152, the bill. But despite my no vote today I remain
495 committed to continuing to work on this issue to reach a
496 compromise.

497 And so I thank you and I yield back my time, Mr. Chair.

498 *Mr. Bilirakis. I thank the gentleman. Does anyone
499 else seek recognition?

500 Mrs. Trahan, you are recognized for five minutes on the
501 bill.

502 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

503 So it is great to see this subcommittee considering
504 serious AI proposals. And while I can't support the Open-
505 Source AI Leadership Act as it is currently drafted, I think
506 my concerns are fixable. If the chairman and sponsor of the
507 bill are open to it, I would welcome the opportunity to work
508 together to fix them in the weeks ahead.

509 While we are on this topic, Mr. Chairman, I think it is
510 important that we name the single biggest threat to a dynamic
511 American open source ecosystem: regulatory uncertainty.
512 Right now Federal AI governance is ad hoc, opaque, and blunt,
513 voluntary commitments with no teeth, executive orders that
514 can change any time, classified benchmarks, Friday night
515 export controls. None of that builds a durable home for
516 American open weight developers. What those developers need,
517 especially the ones releasing their weights and training data
518 openly, is stability and clarity and fairness. That is
519 Congress's job, and we can do it now. We can write one
520 framework that every frontier developer plays by and that
521 every integrator, deployer, and user can plan around.

522 So alongside bills like the Open-Source AI Leadership

523 Act this committee should take up the FRONTIER Act,
524 bipartisan legislation that I have written with my colleagues
525 on this subcommittee, Representative Jay Obernolte and Erin
526 Houchin. If our goal is a strong open source ecosystem, I
527 can't think of a more effective bill.

528 The FRONTIER Act sets one set of definitions,
529 thresholds, and obligations for every frontier developer, no
530 matter how they release their models. It is deliberately
531 agnostic to open weights because it targets what a model can
532 do, not how it is shared. It creates a narrow lane covering
533 catastrophic risk transparency, independent auditing, and
534 incident reporting while leaving states their authority to
535 protect kids, consumers, and civil rights. And it builds in
536 real checks and balances. Executive branch decisions have to
537 be grounded in technical evidence and subject to judicial
538 review.

539 So as this committee fills out its September calendar I
540 urge the chair to take up the bipartisan FRONTIER Act
541 alongside the Open-Source AI Leadership Act. I think
542 together we can create clear, effective AI safety guardrails
543 that our constituents deserve.

544 Thank you, I yield back.

545 *Mr. Bilirakis. I thank the gentlelady. Does anyone
546 else wish to be recognized on the bill?

547 Okay, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 10152

548 to the full committee.

549 All those in favor, say aye.

550 Those opposed, say no.

551 The ayes have it and the bill is agreed to and forwarded
552 to the full committee.

553 All right. Now we will call up _ the chair calls up
554 H.R. 6207 and asks the clerk to report.

555 *The Clerk. H.R. 6207, a bill to prohibit purchases of
556 certain semiconductor manufacturing equipment _

557 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
558 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for an
559 amendment at any point.

560 [The bill follows:]

561

562 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

563

564 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
565 the bill?

566 So anyone on the Republican side?

567 *Voice. You have an ANS.

568 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, yes.

569 *Voice. It is a _

570 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, yes. Anyone seed to be recognized
571 on the bill?

572 All right. Let's go ahead with the amendatory process.
573 Are there amendments to the desk?

574 And I do have one here. The clerk will report the
575 amendment in the nature of a substitute. Again, H.6207
576 [sic], the ANS.

577 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
578 H.R. 6207 offered by Mr. Bilirakis of Florida. Strike all
579 after the enacting clause and insert the following.

580 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the reading of the
581 amendment is dispensed with.

582 [The amendment of Mr. Bilirakis follows:]

583

584 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

585

586 *Mr. Bilirakis. All right, this amendment is in the
587 nature of a substitute. It reflects bipartisan stakeholder
588 agreement on H.R. 6207, the Chip EQUIP Act.

589 I want to thank Representative Lofgren and
590 Representative Obernolte for their bipartisan leadership on
591 this particular bill.

592 Semiconductors are critical to our national and economic
593 security. The bipartisan Chip EQUIP Act takes a targeted
594 approach to semiconductor equipment by prohibiting
595 semiconductor projects receiving CHIPS Act funding from
596 purchasing certain semiconductor manufacturing equipment
597 manufactured, assembled, or refurbished by a foreign entity
598 of concern or its subsidiaries.

599 Manufacturing equipment is a critical part of the supply
600 chain, as everyone knows, and dependence on potentially
601 adversarial sources can undermine our broader investment.
602 This equipment _ this bill strengthens the security and
603 integrity of the U.S. semi-manufacturing [sic] conductor
604 supply chain and ensures that our investments in domestic
605 manufacturing advance our national security. I encourage all
606 my members, all these members, to support this amendment and
607 the underlying bill.

608 And I yield back the balance of my time. Is there any
609 discussion on the amendment?

610 No discussion on the amendment. If there are no further

611 discussions, the vote occurs on the amendment.

612 All those in favor of the amendment, signify by saying
613 aye.

614 All those opposed, nay.

615 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

616 So the chair _ on that _ I believe now we will go ahead
617 and _ any further amendments?

618 No further amendments. The question now occurs on
619 forwarding H.R. 6207, as amended, to the full committee.

620 All those in favor, say aye.

621 Those opposed, no.

622 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
623 forwarded to the full committee.

624 Moving along here, the chair calls up H.R. 10163 and
625 asks the clerk to report.

626 *The Clerk. H.R. 10163, a bill to direct the Secretary
627 of Commerce to promote trusted quantum supply chains in the
628 commercial _

629 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
630 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
631 amendment at any point.

632 [The bill follows:]

633

634 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

635

636 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
637 the bill?

638 Yes, Ms. Lee, you are recognized.

639 *Ms. Lee. Mr. Chairman, I seek recognition to speak in
640 support of the bill.

641 *Mr. Bilirakis. You are recognized.

642 *Ms. Lee. Quantum technology has the potential to
643 revolutionize industries ranging from health care and
644 communications to advanced manufacturing and national
645 security. The United States has long been a global leader in
646 innovation, but maintaining that leadership will require a
647 coordinated strategy to support commercialization, strengthen
648 supply chains, and encourage private investment.

649 The American Quantum Competitiveness Act led by Mr.
650 Langworthy takes important steps to ensure the U.S. remains
651 at the forefront of this critical technology. By directing
652 the Department of Commerce to promote the manufacturing,
653 scaling, and deployment of quantum technology this bill helps
654 bridge the gap between research breakthroughs and real-world
655 applications. It also recognizes that to _ secure and
656 reliable supply chain for quantum components is essential to
657 our economic and our national security.

658 Importantly, the legislation brings together industry,
659 government, and other stakeholders to identify barriers to
660 investment, mitigate supply chain risks, and develop a

661 national strategy for trusted quantum technologies. This
662 forward-looking approach will help create high-skilled
663 American jobs, strengthen domestic manufacturing, and support
664 the next generation of technological leadership.

665 I want to thank my friend, Mr. Langworthy, for his
666 leadership on this important legislation. I look forward to
667 supporting the bill and seeing it move forward.

668 Thank you, I yield back.

669 *Mr. Bilirakis. I thank the gentlelady. Does anyone
670 else seek to be recognized on the bill?

671 Okay, seeing none, any further discussion? No.

672 Are there any amendments to the bill?

673 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
674 10163 to the full committee.

675 All those in favor, say aye.

676 Okay, all those opposed, no.

677 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
678 forwarded to the full committee.

679 *Voice. Let's go to _

680 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, we will go to the next one, yes.

681 *Voice. Seven five zero two?

682 *Mr. Bilirakis. Let's see. Okay, the chair now calls
683 up H.R. 7502 and asks the clerk to report. Again, 7502.

684 *The Clerk. H.R. 7502, a bill to prohibit a person from
685 making a misleading recycled content claim in advertising,

686 marketing _

687 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
688 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
689 amendment at any point.

690 [The bill follows:]

691

692 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

693

694 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
695 the bill?

696 All right _

697 *Ms. Castor. Yes.

698 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes? Yes, Ms. Castor, you are
699 recognized for five minutes on the bill.

700 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek
701 recognition to speak in opposition to H.R. 7502.

702 *Mr. Bilirakis. You are recognized.

703 *Ms. Castor. Thank you.

704 Members, this bill is entitled the "Recycled Materials
705 Attribution Act.'" It is misleading. It is a anti-
706 recycling, pro-plastics industry bill that will detrimentally
707 impact the health of our neighbors back home. It will
708 exacerbate plastic pollution. That is very top of mind in
709 the State of Florida especially. They estimate that about
710 7,000 tons of plastic pollution enters the ocean waters the
711 gulf. Over time we are just drowning in plastic. This bill
712 does nothing to help incentivize greater recycling. It is
713 going to be particularly costly, as well.

714 There are a number of groups that have weighed in on
715 this that I think you should know. The Moms Clean Air Force
716 sent in a note that said, "If passed, this bill would deceive
717 consumers about recycling and incentivize plastic
718 incineration, increasing harmful air pollution and putting

719 children's health at risk.'` They say that this bill allows
720 industry to use deceptive forms of mass balance accounting.
721 It is a bookkeeping trick that keeps companies _ or companies
722 can claim their products contain recycled content even when
723 there is little or no recycled material in the product. The
724 credit can be transferred from waste plastic that was
725 converted into toxic fuel and burned, which no one would
726 consider recycling.

727 Another group of about a dozen environmental
728 organizations _ and I will submit this for the record _ also
729 says this bill will actively undermine the goals of
730 recycling. The list goes on and on here. The opposition has
731 really come out in force on this one.

732 They _ here is another one from NRDC and Oceana, other
733 organizations that, again, call this bill misleading.

734 So with all of this, I think this bill is not ready for
735 prime time, Mr. Chairman. I think we need to go back to the
736 drawing board if we want to do some things on recycling and
737 work together. I think we could hammer out a better
738 compromise. I would urge a no vote on this bill.

739 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
740 any further discussion on the bill?

741 Are there any amendments to the bill?

742 Yes, Mr. _ you are recognized, Mr. Evans, for your
743 amendment.

744 *Mr. Evans. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the
745 nature of a substitute at the desk, Evan _

746 *Mr. Bilirakis. You are recognized.

747 *Voice. Well, he _

748 *Mr. Evans. _ 027_XML.

749 *Mr. Bilirakis. The clerk will report the amendment.

750 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
751 H.R. 7502 offered by Mr. Evans of Colorado. Strike all after
752 the enacting clause and insert the following.

753 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the reading of the
754 amendment is dispensed with.

755 [The amendment of Mr. Evans follows:]

756

757 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

758

759 *Mr. Bilirakis. And the gentleman is recognized for
760 five minutes in support of his amendment.

761 *Mr. Evans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment in
762 the nature of a substitute was drafted in response to
763 feedback from a broad range of stakeholders, and it would
764 strengthen the Recycled Materials Attribution Act by ensuring
765 it achieves its intended outcome of enhancing consumer
766 protections and increasing trust in recycled content
767 marketing claims.

768 The ANS clarifies important definitions to ensure
769 alignment with existing Federal guidelines. Specifically, it
770 changes the definition of "post-consumer material," "pre-
771 consumer material," and "recycling" to position them in
772 accordance with existing EPA definitions and guidelines. And
773 that is because the underlying bipartisan bill takes a
774 nuanced approach to strengthening consumer protections by
775 establishing a nationally consistent framework for recycled
776 content and recycled content marketing claims at a time when
777 we are seeing a patchwork of different definitions and
778 frameworks around the country which causes consumer confusion
779 and actually erects barriers to increasing recycling when
780 there is 50 different standards or potentially 50 different
781 standards that need to be met.

782 It also incentivizes innovative new technologies that
783 can assist in reusing hard-to-recycle plastics and other

784 materials, which helps to reduce plastic waste and lowers the
785 content of these things in landfills.

786 I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this
787 bipartisan bill alongside my friend Mr. Langworthy of New
788 York, who I want to thank for his leadership. And so I urge
789 my colleagues to support the ANS and the underlying bill and
790 yield back.

791 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman yields back. Is there
792 any further discussion on the amendment?

793 Seeing none _ is there any further discussion? No, so
794 let's see. Yes, no problem. Okay, if there is no further
795 discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment.

796 All those in favor of the amendment, signify by saying
797 aye.

798 All those opposed, nay.

799 The ayes _ yes, the ayes have it and the amendment is
800 agreed to.

801 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 7502, as
802 amended, to the full committee.

803 All those in favor, say aye.

804 Those opposed, no.

805 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
806 forwarded to the full committee.

807 Yes. Okay, we are going to go back to H.R. 6832, and
808 the clerk will report.

809 *The Clerk. H.R. 6832, a bill to amend the Federal
810 Trade Commission Act to include requirements for recyclable,
811 compostable _

812 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the full reading of
813 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
814 amendment at any point.

815 [The bill follows:]

816

817 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

818

819 *Mr. Bilirakis. Is there further _ is there any
820 discussion on the bill?

821 *Ms. Castor. Yes.

822 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, Ms. Castor, you are recognized for
823 five minutes on the bill.

824 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek to speak
825 in opposition to this bill.

826 *Mr. Bilirakis. You are recognized.

827 *Ms. Castor. This is like a one-two punch. This is the
828 second punch of a pro-plastics industry anti-recycling bill,
829 the PACK Act. Again, this will detrimentally impact the
830 health of our neighbors back home. It will increase plastic
831 pollution at a time when we are just drowning in plastics.
832 It doesn't do anything to truly incentivize recycling.

833 Here is the Moms Clean Air Force on the PACK Act. They
834 say this will make it easier for companies to use recycling
835 symbols, even when products are not actually recycled or
836 composted at scale, increasing both consumer confusion and
837 the risk of contamination in the municipal waste stream.
838 This will not protect consumers from misleading recycled
839 content or recyclability claims. Instead, they will
840 incentivize polluting technologies.

841 Again, the _ a group of environmental organizations
842 including the National Resources Defense Council and the Moms
843 Clean Air Force says they _ in opposition to the PACK Act,

844 this will eliminate state truth-in-labeling laws. It will
845 preempt effective state-level recycling efforts. It will
846 saddle states and local municipalities, and thus the
847 taxpayers, with increased costs in dealing with increased
848 volumes of unrecycled plastic waste in the recycling stream.

849 Surfrider Foundation also says they strongly oppose this
850 bill, which proposes a weak voluntary Federal framework
851 lacking meaningful enforcement, revoking stronger state
852 policies, and opening the door to widespread greenwashing.
853 The PACK Act would not only impede a traditional and
854 established area of state regulation, but it would also
855 saddle states and local municipalities with increased costs.
856 That is the last thing we need at this time when everything
857 else is so expensive.

858 So it is bad for your health, it is bad when it comes to
859 your pocketbook, it is going to increase plastic pollution.
860 I say no go to the PACK Act and I urge colleagues to vote
861 this down.

862 I yield back.

863 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
864 any further discussion on the bill?

865 Seeing none, are there any amendments to the bill?

866 *Mr. Fulcher. Mr. Chairman?

867 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes. You are recognized, sir. For
868 what purpose?

869 *Mr. Fulcher. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the
870 nature of a substitute at the desk.

871 *Mr. Bilirakis. Okay. I have an amendment _ so you
872 have an amendment. The clerk will report the amendment.

873 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
874 H.R. 6832 offered by Mr. Fulcher of Idaho. Strike all after
875 the enacting clause and insert the following.

876 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the reading of the
877 amendment is dispensed with.

878 [The amendment of Mr. Fulcher follows:]

879

880 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

881

882 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman is recognized for five
883 minutes in support of his amendment.

884 *Mr. Fulcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud to
885 cosponsor Congressman Weber's legislation, H.R. 6832, the
886 Packaging and Claims Knowledge Act, PACK Act. H.R. 6832
887 addresses a critical issue: improving the affordability of
888 groceries and everyday consumer goods for constituents.

889 Unfortunately, retailers, consumer packaged goods,
890 companies, and their suppliers are currently facing a
891 patchwork of conflicting state laws related to packaging,
892 which makes the flow of interstate commerce challenging. The
893 bipartisan PACK Act will help in this regard. It establishes
894 a Federal framework for recyclable or compostable reusable
895 claims on consumer product packaging.

896 This amendment in the nature of a substitute is a result
897 of thoughtful work with stakeholders from across the country
898 to make important improvements to the PACK Act. It clarifies
899 the role of FTC guidance, which, given the actions of the
900 previous FTC chair, serves as a necessary guardrail on
901 Federal power. It establishes minimum requirements for
902 third-party certifications and certification bodies, ensuring
903 that the PACK Act serves as a robust and credible framework.
904 It ends the confusion consumers face when going to the store
905 and seeing different and conflicting environmental claims
906 about the goods they buy and the resulting lower costs for

907 goods and families.

908 I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill along with
909 my friend, Mr. Weber of Texas, who I want to thank for his
910 leadership on it. I encourage all of my colleagues to
911 support this amendment and the underlying bill.

912 And I yield back the balance of my time.

913 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman yields back. Is there
914 any further discussion on the amendment?

915 Seeing none, the clerk will call the roll on the
916 amendment.

917 *Voice. No, there is no roll _

918 *Mr. Bilirakis. No further discussion.

919 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye. Now we
920 are voting on the ANS, on the amendment.

921 All those in favor, say aye.

922 All those opposed, nay.

923 Okay, the ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

924 Now we will vote on the bill as amended. The question
925 now occurs on forwarding H.R. 6832, as amended, to the full
926 committee.

927 All those in favor, say aye.

928 Those opposed, no.

929 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
930 forwarded to the full committee.

931 Moving along here, the chair calls up H.R. 9385 and asks

932 the clerk to report.

933 *The Clerk. H.R. 9385, a bill to prohibit entities
934 integral to the national interests of the United States
935 from _

936 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
937 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
938 amendment at any point.

939 So ordered.

940 [The bill follows:]

941

942 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

943

944 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
945 the bill?

946 *Voice. He has an amendment in the nature of a
947 substitute.

948 [Pause.]

949 *Mr. Bilirakis. All right. So no further discussion on
950 the bill. Are there any amendments to the bill?

951 All right, very good. Mr. Goldman, you are recognized
952 for an amendment on the bill.

953 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have an
954 amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk titled
955 H9358.

956 *Mr. Bilirakis. The clerk will report.

957 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
958 H.R. 9385 offered by Mr. Goldman of Texas. Strike all after
959 the enacting clause, and insert the following.

960 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without the _ without objection, the
961 reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

962 [The amendment of Mr. Goldman follows:]

963

964 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

965

966 *Mr. Bilirakis. And the gentleman is recognized for
967 five minutes in support of his amendment.

968 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment
969 strengthens H.R. 9385, the PROTECT USA Act, and I want to
970 thank Representative Fitzgerald for his leadership on this
971 bill.

972 American businesses shouldn't have to comply with
973 burdensome foreign regulations that hurt our competitiveness,
974 especially when they aren't even subject to the foreign law
975 in the first place. The PROTECT USA Act protects entities
976 important to U.S. national interests from being forced to
977 comply with foreign sustainability rules like the EU's
978 Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

979 Here is what that looks like on the ground in my
980 district. A gas station owner in Fort Worth with just a
981 handful of employees isn't multi-national _ isn't a multi-
982 national corporation doing business in Europe. He'll never
983 file a compliance report in Brussels. But if he is partners
984 with a major American fuel brand that does business in
985 Europe, his franchise contract can get rewritten to satisfy
986 EU mandates with new questionnaires, new supplier codes, new
987 audit requirements, all from a regulation he had no say in,
988 passed by a government he doesn't vote for.

989 That is a small businessman in my district spending time
990 and money to comply with EU overreach because of who he

991 partners with to sell gas to local families, truck drivers,
992 and other small businesses. That is why I introduced the
993 stop the EU Overreach Act directing the U.S. Trade
994 Representative to investigate whether these directives
995 unfairly restrict American business and to determine how we
996 should respond. Together, these bills help protect American
997 businesses from regulatory overreach abroad.

998 I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and
999 the bill before us today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield
1000 back.

1001 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman yields back. Is there
1002 any further discussion on the amendment?

1003 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, all in
1004 favor shall signify by saying aye _ this is on the amendment
1005 _ all in favor, say aye.

1006 All those opposed, nay.

1007 Okay, the ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

1008 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 9385, as
1009 amended, to the full committee.

1010 All those in favor, say aye.

1011 Those opposed, no.

1012 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
1013 forwarded to the full committee.

1014 Okay, we are going to move now to _ I believe it is
1015 7945. Yes, okay. The chair calls up H.R. 7945, and the

1016 clerk will report.

1017 *The Clerk. H.R. 7945, a bill to ban the sale of
1018 nitrous oxide consumer products, and for other purposes. Be
1019 it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives _

1020 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
1021 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1022 amendment at any point.

1023 So ordered.

1024 [The bill follows:]

1025

1026 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1027

1028 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
1029 the bill?

1030 You are recognized, Mr. Mullin, on the bill. Yes.

1031 *Mr. Mullin. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1032 Nitrous oxide is an addictive and dangerous substance,
1033 commonly referred to as laughing gas or whippets. While
1034 there are some narrow, legitimate uses in medical and
1035 industrial settings, it is otherwise a hazardous substance
1036 and there has been an alarming rise in its misuse. Fourteen
1037 million Americans say they have misused it, and fatalities
1038 have increased by five hundred and seventy-eight percent in
1039 the past decade. Even a single use can cause debilitating
1040 effects like blood clots and neurological damage, and even
1041 lead to death.

1042 Despite these risks, nitrous oxide can easily be bought
1043 in gas stations, smoke shops, and through online retailers.
1044 Not only is it easily accessible to consumers, but it is also
1045 marketed as a party drug with names like Miami Magic or
1046 Baking Bad and Galaxy Gas, while being sold in brightly
1047 colored canisters and flavors. This is clearly targeting
1048 both kids and adults for recreational use. With such fun and
1049 carefree marketing, unsuspecting victims often have no idea
1050 that even one hit of nitrous oxide could alter their lives
1051 forever. An individual who lost her sister to nitrous oxide
1052 addiction shared that, "One of the greatest barriers we faced

1053 was my sister's belief that the product could not truly be
1054 dangerous because it was sold legally.'` That is why we must
1055 act.

1056 My bill, H.R. 7945, the Nitrous Oxide Safety Act, would
1057 direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission, or CPSC, to
1058 label nitrous oxide as a banned hazardous product. This
1059 straightforward approach would prohibit its sale for
1060 household and recreational use. The bill includes exemptions
1061 to ensure that legitimate uses would not be impacted, such as
1062 in dentists offices, commercial kitchens, and automotive
1063 settings. The CPSC already has an existing regulatory
1064 framework to oversee hazardous products, meaning the agency
1065 has the experience and expertise to enact this directive once
1066 it is signed into law.

1067 Some states are working to limit access to consumer
1068 sales of nitrous oxide. For example, my home state of
1069 California is moving forward a bill that would prohibit the
1070 sale of flavored nitrous oxide or canisters larger than eight
1071 grams. Florida also recently passed a bill prohibiting smoke
1072 shops from possessing or selling nitrous oxide.

1073 While it is encouraging to see states responding to this
1074 crisis, they're acting alone is not enough. A patchwork of
1075 state laws with various loopholes will still leave avenues
1076 for too many people to access this hazardous product.
1077 Individuals would still be able to drive across state lines

1078 or go to an online retailer to purchase it.

1079 In addition, there is no amount of nitrous oxide an
1080 individual can safely inhale without strict adherence to
1081 medical protocols. While the smallest canisters are
1082 compatible with devices to make whipped cream, their size
1083 does not make them any less dangerous for human inhalation,
1084 and there are many other ways to easily and cheaply make
1085 whipped cream at home. Nitrous oxide is neither necessary
1086 nor appropriate for household use.

1087 My staff and I have heard from countless families who
1088 have grieved the loss of a loved one due to nitrous oxide
1089 misuse. Their stories, many of which I submitted for the
1090 record during the legislative hearing on July 22, are
1091 harrowing. But their commitment to honoring loved ones by
1092 advocating for change is inspiring. Too many lives have been
1093 lost.

1094 I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill
1095 so we can end consumer sales of nitrous oxide and get this
1096 dangerous product off our shelves.

1097 Thank you, and I yield back.

1098 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman yields back. Is there
1099 any further discussion?

1100 Yes, Mr. Kean, you are recognized for five minutes on
1101 the amendment.

1102 *Mr. Kean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1103 I am pleased to see the Nitrous Oxide Safety Act
1104 included in today's markup. In my home state of New Jersey I
1105 have heard from constituents who spoke firsthand about the
1106 dangers of a product found at gas stations and convenience
1107 stores across the country, nitrous oxide canisters, or
1108 whippets. This product contains nitrous oxide, also known as
1109 laughing gas, which can also be used as a culinary propellant
1110 for products like whipped cream.

1111 In recent years, however, there has been a sharp
1112 increase in misuse of nitrous oxide as an inhalant that gives
1113 users a high. Its abuse can lead to heart attacks, nerve
1114 damage, muscle spasms, numbness, birth defects, paralysis,
1115 and even death. It is concerning that nitrous oxide
1116 canisters full of this dangerous and deadly substance are
1117 being sold without restriction to youth and adults who have
1118 no knowledge of the dangers associated with the substance
1119 they are inhaling. And that is why I recently sent letters
1120 to gas stations, convenience stores, and online retailers
1121 across the country who have sold nitrous oxide to
1122 unsuspecting consumers.

1123 Additionally, I introduced a bill to honor John Robert
1124 Mannarino, a constituent who passed away due to complications
1125 from this dangerous product. Today I am announcing my
1126 cosponsorship of the Nitrous Oxide Safety Act because I
1127 believe it is important to address this issue and to ensure

1128 that nitrous oxide isn't available to unsuspecting consumers.

1129 I want to thank my colleagues for their partnership, and

1130 I urge the committee to support this important legislation.

1131 Mr. Chair, I yield back.

1132 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentleman yields back. Is there
1133 any further discussion on this particular bill?

1134 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 7945 to the
1135 full committee.

1136 All those in favor, say aye.

1137 Those opposed, no.

1138 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
1139 forwarded to the full committee.

1140 Okay, moving along, the chair calls up H.R. 6488, and
1141 the _ asks the clerk to report.

1142 *The Clerk. H.R. 6488, a bill to prohibit certain
1143 platforms from allowing minors to create or maintain an
1144 account or profile _

1145 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
1146 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1147 amendment at any point.

1148 [The bill follows:]

1149

1150 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1151

1152 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek to be recognized on
1153 the bill?

1154 *Mrs. Houchin. Mr. Chairman?

1155 *Mr. Bilirakis. Mrs. Houchin, yes, you are recognized.
1156 For what purpose?

1157 *Mrs. Houchin. Mr. Chairman, I have amendment in the
1158 nature of a substitute at the desk.

1159 *Mr. Bilirakis. Okay, well, let's see. If there is no
1160 further discussion, we will move on to the amendatory
1161 process.

1162 You are recognized. Will the clerk report, please?

1163 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1164 H.R. 6488 offered by Mrs. Houchin of Indiana. Strike all
1165 after the enacting clause and insert the following. Section
1166 1, short title. This Act may be cited as governing underage
1167 access and requiring data consent and _

1168 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection _ oh, wait, excuse
1169 me. Without objection, the first reading of the amendment is
1170 dispensed with, and the bill will be open for amendment. We
1171 already did that.

1172 So you are recognized, Mrs. Houchin.

1173 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for including
1174 this bill in the markup today. A lot of _ an immense amount
1175 of work has gone into this, and I am certainly grateful for
1176 your consideration of the bill and for your support.

1177 Last week, Meta agreed to pay 48 states nearly \$18
1178 billion and to make sweeping changes to its platforms,
1179 including night curfews, time limits, and an independent
1180 auditor. These basic steps are long overdue, and they are an
1181 admission that the industry knows that there are basic steps
1182 toward making social media safer for children; millions of
1183 children across the country have been harmed by the design
1184 and algorithms of these platforms.

1185 We shouldn't consider the outcome, though, of a court
1186 case as a reason to stop our work. One company acting under
1187 the pressure of litigation is not enough. A settlement binds
1188 one defendant, but it sets no standard for an industry. In
1189 fact, it actually re-emphasizes the responsibility of
1190 Congress to empower parents and to protect children online.
1191 This committee has already shown it can do that work.

1192 Earlier this year we passed the KIDS Act package and
1193 helped shepherd it across the House floor with strong
1194 bipartisan support. I am proud of that package and the hard
1195 work both _ by both my colleagues on our side of the aisle
1196 and the other for the work that was done on that legislation.
1197 But my amendment today builds upon it.

1198 The result of those negotiations was a weaker COPPA 2.0.
1199 This bill seeks to close those significant loopholes. As
1200 introduced, the RESET Act sets a nationwide minimum age of 16
1201 for social media. I still believe there is real validity in

1202 exploring that standard. Australia has adopted it. Other
1203 countries are following. And I am not closing the door on
1204 that today, but I do want to be practical. I want to
1205 legislate where consensus exists. And over the past several
1206 months I have worked with my colleagues and with stakeholders
1207 across the debate, with parents and researchers and industry
1208 to find where we can act now to ensure parents and caregivers
1209 are not left out of the equation.

1210 I want to thank Chairman Bilirakis and Chairman Guthrie
1211 for their engagement throughout the process. This issue is
1212 personal to me, and my approach is informed by my own
1213 experience as a mother trying to keep her own children safe
1214 online. Those conversations shaped the amendment before you
1215 today. My substitute, the Guardian Act, replaces the flat
1216 age restriction with verifiable and revocable parental
1217 consent. It puts parents in charge. No platform may process
1218 a child's personal data without a parent's consent, and
1219 parents can take that consent back at any time and as easily
1220 as they gave it, with the account closed and the data
1221 deleted. It is the same parent empowerment principle at the
1222 heart of the KIDS Act applied to the front door of social
1223 media itself.

1224 I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and the
1225 underlying bill.

1226 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

1227 *Mr. Bilirakis. I commend the gentlelady. Mr. Pallone,
1228 you are recognized on the bill. I know it is on the ANS, but
1229 I know you want to speak.

1230 *Mr. Pallone. It is on both, but _

1231 *Mr. Bilirakis. Go ahead, yes.

1232 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1233 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, sure.

1234 *Mr. Pallone. I respect that the goal of this bill is
1235 to keep kids safe online. And I share that goal, which is
1236 why I worked across the aisle earlier this year to pass the
1237 bipartisan KIDS Act. The KIDS Act, which passed the House on
1238 suspension, is a comprehensive online safety package that
1239 strikes a balance between holding social media companies
1240 accountable, requiring them to turn off addictive features by
1241 default, and protecting teen autonomy and speech rights.

1242 This amendment, I think, is incompatible with the KIDS
1243 Act and the carefully negotiated protections for kids and
1244 teens data included in that package, so I can't support the
1245 amendment. But I also have strong policy concerns with the
1246 amendment. Under this amendment teens will need parental
1247 consent to access many online platforms, and this amendment
1248 entitles parents to download all of a teen's data, including
1249 private messages. This type of parental access to minors'
1250 data can hurt vulnerable youth or subject them to real-world
1251 harm.

1252 Not all kids are raised in supportive or even safe
1253 households. As Congress we have a duty to keep all kids
1254 safe. Over 50 percent of LGBTQ+ youth face some sort of
1255 rejection at home from their parents, and more than half of
1256 closeted youth use the internet to safely connect with peers.
1257 And I worry that this bill risks both isolating teens in
1258 unsupportive households by giving their parents control over
1259 their online access and exposing teens in bad home situations
1260 to harm if their private conversations are revealed to their
1261 parents.

1262 This amendment also threatens to lead to a widespread
1263 age verification for all online users, not just kids and
1264 teens. Current age verification technologies often use
1265 privacy invasive methods like uploading government IDs or
1266 scanning a user's face biometrics.

1267 For all these reasons I will be voting no both on the
1268 amendment as well as on the underlying bill. So I thank you,
1269 Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance of my time.

1270 *Mr. Bilirakis. I thank the gentleman. He yields back.
1271 Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

1272 *Ms. Castor. Yes.

1273 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, Ms. Castor, you are recognized for
1274 five minutes on the amendment.

1275 *Ms. Castor. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
1276 certainly appreciate Mrs. Houchin's leadership on when it

1277 comes to social media. And really, it was thanks to both
1278 sides of the aisle on this committee we got the KIDS Act over
1279 the finish line. It passed the house in June. We are kind
1280 of waiting for the Senate to act, but that was kind of a very
1281 important step to update how these platforms are designed and
1282 to call out some of the very insidious, addictive measures in
1283 _ that social media companies use, and then to raise the age
1284 for privacy protections.

1285 The Meta settlement last week is another call to action
1286 to make sure that whatever comes out of the Congress is the
1287 strongest possible. There may be some things to codify that
1288 are contained in that settlement. So it doesn't just apply
1289 to Meta, it applies to all platforms.

1290 But I need to have a little more clarity on what this
1291 ANS does. I understand that the RESET Act, Representative
1292 Houchin's original bill, just said, okay, age 16 and younger,
1293 that is a social media ban in the U.S. And that is worth
1294 debating. Other countries have gone there, so that is pretty
1295 clear what that is. This ANS _ maybe counsel can give us a
1296 little clarity. How does this ANS differ from what we passed
1297 out on the KIDS Act, the bipartisan package of kids online
1298 safety bills?

1299 *Counsel. Thank you for the question. I would point
1300 you to section 3(a), prohibition. And I read, "A provider of
1301 a covered platform may not process the personal data of a

1302 covered minor without obtaining the verifiable parental
1303 consent of a parent of the covered minor.'` Subsection B,
1304 "Age Determination.'` "Notwithstanding subsection A, a
1305 provider of a covered platform may process the personal data
1306 of a covered minor if, one, the provider of the covered
1307 platform processes such personal data for the sole purpose of
1308 determining the age of a user.'` Paragraph two, "The
1309 provider of the covered platform does not retain such
1310 personal data any longer than the period strictly necessary
1311 to determine the age of the user, and deletes such personal
1312 data promptly upon determining the age of the user.'`

1313 Paragraph three _

1314 *Ms. Castor. Can you _ I wonder if, counsel, if you can
1315 give it to us in plain language.

1316 *Counsel. Ma'am, I believe that is a policy question.

1317 *Mrs. Houchin. Will the gentlelady yield?

1318 *Ms. Castor. Yes, I will yield to Representative
1319 Houchin.

1320 *Mrs. Houchin. So when we were crafting the RESET Act
1321 _ I don't know if you have heard the personal story, but when
1322 my daughter was 13 she got access to a social media platform.
1323 When we discovered that she had it _ she wasn't allowed to _
1324 she hacked around our parental controls and she got access at
1325 age 13. When we contacted the platform, they said she is 13,
1326 she is legally able to have it. And if she would like to

1327 delete her account she can, but you cannot.

1328 So whether a child is 13 or 16 or 15, whatever age they
1329 are _ and I understand Mr. Pallone's concerns, but there are
1330 many parents who want to be part of those conversations and
1331 who need to be part of those conversations that may be being
1332 left out of those.

1333 What I tried to do with the Guardian Act is to set the
1334 standard at can they contract without a parent for the use of
1335 that data without a parent's consent. And it should be
1336 revocable. If I determine that my 16-year-old is using
1337 social media to sell drugs, then I should be able, as the
1338 parent, to revoke that consent and take the platform away.
1339 It is simply not enough to say they can't have a phone,
1340 because we know children as young as nine are hacking around
1341 VPNs at school and lying about age and getting on these
1342 platforms.

1343 I am trying to put parents in a position to have those
1344 conversations with their children and be able to protect them
1345 from these online harms, and the KIDS Act falls short of
1346 that, which is why I crafted Guardian.

1347 *Ms. Castor. Okay, thank you for that explanation.

1348 So there was a lot of discussion on age verification.
1349 It is kind of a hot topic. How does this bill _ maybe for
1350 counsel first in then Representative Houchin _ how does this
1351 affect age verification? Because that is kind of a touchy

1352 subject out there.

1353 *Counsel. I can read section 3(b), "Age

1354 Determination.'" "Notwithstanding subsection'" _

1355 *Ms. Castor. Maybe I will go to Representative Houchin.

1356 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you.

1357 *Ms. Castor. Because we can read the bill, but I am
1358 looking for the broader context.

1359 *Mrs. Houchin. So we are still working on some of the
1360 age verification issues, and Representative Auchincloss and I
1361 will be dropping a bill called the Sweet 16 Act that will go
1362 in concert with his legislation, Parents Over Platforms. We
1363 really are trying to get to a place where everyone can be
1364 comfortable that we can do age verification in a way that is
1365 good for both sides of the aisle, and so we are continuing to
1366 work through that. I think these bills work in complement
1367 with each other.

1368 *Ms. Castor. Okay. I am out of time, but I do have
1369 questions about the preemption and knowledge standard and
1370 whether that _ whether they are stronger or weaker.

1371 But I will yield back at this time and listen to the
1372 rest of the debate. Thank you.

1373 *Mr. Bilirakis. Okay. The gentlelady yields back.
1374 Yes, Mr. Goldman, you are recognized for five minutes to
1375 discuss the amendment.

1376 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield my time

1377 to Representative Houchin.

1378 *Mr. Bilirakis. You are recognized.

1379 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Goldman.

1380 Ms. Castor, I would just say that there is language that
1381 includes a zero knowledge proof standard and that is one of
1382 the things that we are working on, which is basically
1383 commercially available systems that anonymize the data so it
1384 is not transferring your identity, it is just doing a plus-up
1385 or plus-down if that anonymized data is of age or not of age.
1386 So it adds a layer of privacy protection with that standard.

1387 *Ms. Castor. And will the gentlewoman yield?

1388 *Mrs. Houchin. Sure.

1389 *Ms. Castor. So that is still a little bit of a work in
1390 progress that you would need _ everybody would need clarity
1391 on going forward.

1392 And then the _

1393 *Mrs. Houchin. Oh, wait, that is in the bill.

1394 *Ms. Castor. That is in the bill?

1395 *Mrs. Houchin. The zero knowledge standard is in the
1396 bill.

1397 *Ms. Castor. Okay, the _ I understand that under the
1398 KIDS Act, teens that are 13 and younger need parental
1399 consent. That was kind of an update that was included in the
1400 COPPA 2.0 section. So is this the _ taking it to 16? Would
1401 the additional age verification and _

1402 *Mrs. Houchin. Yes, it is taking it to 18 _ or 17, I
1403 should say, because you could _ as I said, you could have a
1404 16-year-old that is selling drugs on the platform. You may
1405 not want them to have access to that platform if they're
1406 doing something that is harmful to themselves. So as a
1407 parent, you should be able to revoke that consent, and that
1408 is the idea that we are trying _

1409 *Ms. Castor. And that is the tension, I guess, between
1410 what _

1411 *Mrs. Houchin. Yes.

1412 *Ms. Castor. _ Representative Pallone _ Ranking Member
1413 Pallone is saying with vulnerable teens _

1414 *Mrs. Houchin. Correct.

1415 *Ms. Castor. Is that overbroad for certain folks?
1416 Okay, thank you. I will yield back _ or I yield back to you.

1417 *Mrs. Houchin. I yield, Mr. Chairman.

1418 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes. Goldman yields. Thank you. All
1419 right, is there any further discussion on the amendment?

1420 Ms. Schrier, you are recognized. I am sorry.

1421 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1422 I just wanted to thank you, Representative Houchin, for
1423 continuing to work on protecting kids. I want you to know
1424 that you have a partner in me. I think there is so many of
1425 us who are very concerned about this. And I care about
1426 parents and their involvement in their kids' lives and their

1427 right to know if kids are getting into danger. That is why I
1428 am proud of so many parts of the KIDS Act and Sammy's Law,
1429 because that at least alerts parents if their kids are
1430 getting into danger, but still preserves kids' privacy.

1431 I am _ I have similar concerns about age verification,
1432 but I like that you are working through this and you are
1433 getting to a place where we can protect privacy and verify
1434 age and really hold tech companies responsible. And I am
1435 also carefully watching the ban that they're doing in
1436 Australia and other places until age 16. That was our
1437 family's policy. In fact, it is still going and he is almost
1438 18 and seems to have really no desire to be on those
1439 platforms, knowing how dangerous they can be and addictive
1440 they can be. So I am watching with interest to see what the
1441 numbers look like, but also what the outcomes are in terms of
1442 attention and focus and school and mental health and family
1443 dynamics and actual participation in sports and other
1444 activities, and what they do replace that time with and how
1445 they interact with their friends and whether kids are, you
1446 know, kind of doing normal teenage activities again.

1447 And so I just want you to know that I am here to
1448 continue to partner with you on this as we get results from
1449 Australia and make sure we do the right thing for kids and
1450 families.

1451 Also, Ms. Castor, if there was anything else you wanted

1452 to talk about, I am happy to yield the rest of my time to
1453 you.

1454 Okay, I yield back then.

1455 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentlelady yields back. I
1456 appreciate it. I commend the gentlelady for all her work.

1457 And is there any further discussion?

1458 All right, then we will vote on the amendment if there
1459 is no further discussion. The vote occurs on the amendment.

1460 All in favor of the amendment, signify by saying aye.

1461 All those opposed, nay.

1462 The ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

1463 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 6488, as
1464 amended, to the full committee.

1465 All those in favor, say aye.

1466 Those opposed, no.

1467 Okay, the ayes have it and the bill is agreed to and
1468 forwarded to the full committee.

1469 The chair now calls up H.R. 2713 and asks the clerk to
1470 report.

1471 *The Clerk. H.R. 2713, a bill to improve online ticket
1472 sales and protect consumers, and for other purposes. Be it
1473 enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
1474 United States _

1475 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
1476 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

1477 amendment at any point.

1478 [The bill follows:]

1479

1480 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1481

1482 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone want to discuss the bill,
1483 any further discussions on the bill?

1484 No? All right. So we will get to the amendatory
1485 process. Are there any amendments?

1486 Yes, there are. The clerk will report the amendment in
1487 the nature of a substitute, and it is H2713, the ANS.

1488 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1489 H.R. 2713 offered by Mr. Bilirakis of Florida. Strike all
1490 after _

1491 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the reading of the
1492 amendment is dispensed with this.

1493 [The amendment of Mr. Bilirakis follows:]

1494

1495 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1496

1497 *Mr. Bilirakis. This amendment in the nature of a
1498 substitute _ I recognize myself for the amendment _ this
1499 amendment in the nature of a substitute reflects bipartisan
1500 agreement on Representative Harshbarger and Carter's MAIN
1501 Event Ticketing Act.

1502 Live events such as concerts and sports are an important
1503 part of American culture and economy, bringing communities
1504 together and supporting artists, athletes, and venues.
1505 Americans should be able to buy tickets to their favorite
1506 show or game without competing against automated bots.

1507 Bots often purchase large quantities of tickets almost
1508 instantly, making it harder for ordinary consumers to access
1509 events at the initial price. The MAIN Event Ticketing Act
1510 strengthens consumer protection in the online ticket
1511 marketplace by addressing automated ticket purchasing and
1512 strengthening enforcement of existing protections.

1513 Fans should not have to rely on sophisticated software
1514 or pay inflated prices simply to attend a concert, sporting
1515 event, or other live event. This bill improves
1516 accountability by requiring primary ticket sellers to report
1517 bot attacks, giving regulators better visibility into the
1518 scope of the problem. Building off the TICKET Act, this bill
1519 is a common-sense step toward a fairer ticketing marketplace.
1520 I encourage all my colleagues to support the amendment.

1521 And we worked on this with Chair Schakowsky. You were

1522 chair at the time, I believe. And we worked on this jointly,
1523 and this adds to it. So it complements our bills.

1524 So I yield back the balance of my time, but I encourage
1525 everyone to vote on _ for this particular amendment.

1526 Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

1527 If there are no further discussions, the vote occurs on
1528 the amendment.

1529 All in favor of the amendment, signify by saying aye.

1530 All those opposed, no.

1531 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

1532 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 2713, as
1533 amended, to the full committee.

1534 All those in favor, say aye.

1535 Those opposed, no.

1536 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
1537 forwarded to the full committee.

1538 The chair calls up H.R. 5967 and asks the clerk to
1539 report.

1540 *The Clerk. H.R. 5967, a bill to direct the Federal
1541 Trade Commission in conjunction with the Department of
1542 Justice to convene an interagency task force for the purpose
1543 of addressing scams, and for other purposes.

1544 *Mr. Bilirakis. Without objection, the first reading of
1545 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1546 amendment at any point.

1547 [The bill follows:]

1548

1549 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1550

1551 *Mr. Bilirakis. Does anyone seek recognition on the
1552 bill?

1553 Okay, no discussion on the bill. So are there _

1554 *Mrs. Houchin. Mr. Chairman?

1555 *Mr. Bilirakis. _ any amendments? Yes.

1556 *Mrs. Houchin. I have an amendment at the _ in the
1557 nature of a substitute at the desk.

1558 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, okay. You are recognized to
1559 explain your amendment, but we want to have the clerk report
1560 the amendment first.

1561 Go ahead, Clerk.

1562 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1563 H.R. 5967 offered by Mrs. Houchin of Indiana. Strike all
1564 after the enacting clause and insert the following.

1565 *Mr. Bilirakis. So _

1566 *The Clerk. Section 1 _

1567 *Mr. Bilirakis. _ Mrs. Houchin, you are recognized to _
1568 yes. For what purpose does the gentleman seek recognition?

1569 Okay, without objection, the reading of the amendment is
1570 dispensed with.

1571 [The amendment of Mrs. Houchin follows:]

1572

1573 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1574

1575 *Mr. Bilirakis. And the gentlelady is recognized for
1576 five minutes in support of her amendment.

1577 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was happy
1578 that H.R. 5967 is before us today, and I want to thank Mr.
1579 Menendez for his partnership on it. I also want to recognize
1580 my fellow Hoosier, Mr. Shreve, and the Stop Scams Caucus for
1581 keeping this issue at the forefront in the House of
1582 Representatives.

1583 Fraud used to be a nuisance crime. It isn't anymore.
1584 Americans reported losing \$15.9 billion to fraud last year.
1585 That is the highest on record. It is up roughly 27 percent
1586 in a single year. The Federal Trade Commission's own
1587 estimate puts the cost of fraud in 2024 alone as high as \$196
1588 billion. Clearly, this is an issue but the problem is not
1589 that no one is working on it; the problem is that everyone is
1590 working on it from a different angle. No single agency is
1591 able to see the whole picture.

1592 We heard that plainly at our legislative hearing in
1593 July. I asked the witnesses a simple question: What is
1594 actually stopping the Federal Government from sharing what it
1595 already knows? Is it authority? Is it statute? Is it
1596 capability? The answer was simpler than that: There is a
1597 lack of ownership and coordination. No agency has been told
1598 to own it, and no one has been tasked with the primary
1599 responsibility for it.

1600 So emerging scams discovered by one agency never reach
1601 another. Meanwhile, criminal syndicates do coordinate and
1602 Americans get hurt. H.R. 5967, the Strategic Task Force on
1603 Scam Prevention Act, gives the work of _ gives the owner _
1604 gives ownership over the issue. It directs the FTC with the
1605 Department of Justice to convene an interagency task force
1606 for the purpose of addressing scams targeting consumers. The
1607 task force is directed to proactively engage and consult with
1608 industry partners.

1609 These companies see things we don't. They often spot
1610 patterns long before those patterns reach a Federal database.
1611 A strategy with _ written without that firsthand knowledge
1612 from industry is a strategy that is written only from the
1613 outside. This bill ensures they will be part of the ongoing
1614 conversation and how we address it. Americans are losing
1615 close to \$200 billion a year to criminals better coordinated
1616 than the government trying to chase them. I know we can do
1617 better, and H.R. 5967 is how we start.

1618 I urge my colleagues to support the amendment and to
1619 report the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.
1620 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1621 *Mr. Bilirakis. I thank the gentlelady. Again _ I am
1622 sorry, I have a bad cold _ but anyway, I thank the gentlelady
1623 for offering the amendment.

1624 Are there any further discussions on the amendment?

1625 Yes, Mrs. Dingell, you are recognized for five minutes
1626 on the amendment.

1627 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to support
1628 the gentlelady and her colleague for introducing this.

1629 Consumer protection is about trust. Families should not
1630 have to worry about their personal information being
1631 exploited or scammers waiting to steal their hard-earned
1632 savings. And today's scams have continued to evolve.
1633 Criminals are using artificial intelligence, fake websites,
1634 spoof phone numbers, text messages, and social media to
1635 target Americans every day. In 2025 Americans reported close
1636 to \$16 billion in fraud losses, and we know that the true
1637 number is even higher because victims are too embarrassed to
1638 report it.

1639 Today's scammers are evolving faster than our response.
1640 Their tactics include robocalls, text messages. Has anybody
1641 been to the cryptocurrency bank machines, which are horrific?
1642 I saw _ met several people this summer who had been scammed.
1643 Artificial intelligence _ making scams more convincing and
1644 harder to detect. And that is why we need a coordinated
1645 national strategy and why the Strategic Task Force on Scam
1646 Prevention Act led by Representatives Menendez and Houchin,
1647 is so important. It will establish a task force that brings
1648 together Federal agencies, law enforcement, financial
1649 institutions, and the private sector to identify the

1650 emergency threats and develop strategies to prevent scams
1651 before they happen because _ and I unfortunately have met too
1652 many people _ because once someone loses their retirement
1653 savings or life savings to a scam, recovering that money is
1654 almost impossible.

1655 Prevention has to be just as important as enforcement,
1656 and they're really getting smart. My own mother this summer
1657 _ I still don't know how it happened, and thankfully somebody
1658 caught it _ someone actually convinced her to put an app on
1659 her computer that they were using to take over and change the
1660 password on her financial accounts. This is _ these are _
1661 this is a smart, tough cookie. And I have more _ we all have
1662 more stories than we want.

1663 Consumer protection should be a nonpartisan issue. We
1664 all have a responsibility to protect the people we represent
1665 and ensure our laws keep pace with the criminals trying to
1666 exploit them. With that I urge all my colleagues to support
1667 H.R. 5967.

1668 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1669 *Mr. Bilirakis. The gentlelady yields back, and I thank
1670 her. Anyone else? Is there any further discussion on the
1671 amendment?

1672 Okay, seeing none, we are going to vote on the amendment
1673 if there is no further discussion.

1674 All in favor of the amendment shall signify by saying

1675 aye.

1676 All those opposed, nay.

1677 The ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

1678 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 5967, as
1679 amended, to the full committee.

1680 All those in favor, say aye.

1681 Those opposed, no.

1682 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to and
1683 forwarded to the full committee.

1684 Without objection _ it looks like we are done, folks. I
1685 appreciate you all staying, even though they were all voice
1686 votes. I appreciate you being here and participating.

1687 So without objection, staff is authorized to make
1688 technical and conforming changes to the legislation approved
1689 by the committee today.

1690 So ordered.

1691 Without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

1692 [Whereupon, at 11:43 a.m., the subcommittee was
1693 adjourned.]