

Committee on Energy and Commerce

Opening Statement

of

Subcommittee on Energy Ranking Member Bobby Rush

DOE Modernization: Legislation Addressing Cybersecurity and Emergency Response

March 14, 2018

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this important hearing today on legislation addressing cybersecurity and emergency response.

Mr. Chairman, I support the four bills before us and I want to specifically acknowledge Mr. Walberg of Michigan for working with my office on the Energy Emergency Leadership Act.

This bill would establish a new DOE Assistant Secretary position with jurisdiction over all energy emergency and security functions related to energy supply, infrastructure, and cybersecurity.

Mr. Chairman, while cybersecurity is an important topic, I would be remiss if I did not point out that today is National Walkout Day.

As we speak, students from across the country are leaving their classrooms to honor the lives of the 17 people killed at Stoneman Douglas High School last month and to press policymakers to pass commonsense gun control laws.

Mr. Speaker, cybersecurity is a serious issue that must be addressed, however, nothing can be more urgent than answering the cries and pleas emanating from our nation's youth:

Students who have had enough of being scared and anxious and frustrated by the lack of leadership coming from both the Trump Administration and this Congress on the issue of gun violence.

Mr. Chairman, as policymakers, as parents and grandparents, as adults and as leaders, we are failing our youth by letting politics and influential interest groups come before our most sacred responsibility: protecting our children.

Mr. Chairman, every single Democrat on the full Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter to Chairman Walden on March 7th urging him to hold hearings as soon as possible to address gun violence in America.

That followed a February 16th letter, also signed by all 24 Democrats on the full Committee, to Chairman Walden and Health Subcommittee Chairman Burgess urging the Republican leadership to hold a hearing as soon as possible on federal investment in gun violence prevention research.

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Mr. Chairman, we owe it to our children to, at the very least, examine this problem in a serious and thoughtful manner, and I can assure you that this issue will come up again and again regardless of the planned topic of discussion until we hold hearings.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses and with that I yield the balance of my time to my friend and colleague from California, Mr. McNerney...