

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chairman Mike Doyle

Markup of H.R. 1218 and H.R. 2501

November 3, 2021

Good morning and welcome to my colleagues.

Today, we will consider two bills, the Spectrum Coordination Act and the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act.

One will help improve our broadband networks, and the other will help us better understand how broadband affects health outcomes and give policymakers direction as to where to prioritize support for broadband connectivity.

Collectively, these consensus bills will further the important work this committee has been undertaking on broadband access and adoption.

As it is not the broadband service itself, but the connectivity it brings that is so important. And that is why the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act is relevant today.

We should examine how connectivity can better women's health.

I applaud my colleagues for their bill and their focus on maternal health.

I also look forward to action on the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

This bill will make unprecedented investments in our nation's broadband networks and expand connectivity to dramatically reduce the digital divide.

The networks that are funded by the bill will pay dividends far into our future.

Now, the Ranking Member said at our legislative hearing that this Committee should have been provided an opportunity to shape this significant broadband policy.

I agree with his comments.

We should still strive to improve upon these programs, and a perfect example is the Spectrum Innovation Act.

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I continue to believe, as do stakeholders from the public interest community and broadband providers, that this bill strengthens the spectrum provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

As we did before our legislative hearing and as we do now, we await and would welcome our colleagues' input.

It is nevertheless a positive sign that within this committee we can move a modest spectrum proposal with a bipartisan substitute amendment.

The Spectrum Coordination Act requires NTIA and the FCC to update their memorandum of understanding on spectrum coordination.

It is vitally important that the processes of spectrum management and allocation are transparent, predictable, undertaken with the input and support of stakeholders, and definitive.

Because these processes *are* policy.

When policymakers do not provide certainty and speak with clarity on these issues; when there are last minute objections; and yes, when the expert committee's voice is not heard early and often, it is more difficult for federal spectrum users, broadband providers, and equipment manufacturers to utilize our nation's spectrum resources in the most efficient manner.

Ensuring efficient use of spectrum and laying the groundwork for robust deployment of broadband networks for consumers and the private sector is a paramount function of this committee.

In that vein, I look forward to moving the bills before us today, and to continue working on communications policies that further the public interest going forward.