

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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**Statement of Ranking Member Anna G. Eshoo**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**Markup of H.R. \_\_\_, the “Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting**  
**Act of 2015”**  
**February 4, 2015**

Today’s markup revisits a bill that returning Members of this Subcommittee know very well. Last Congress, the House unanimously passed the *FCC Consolidated Reporting Act* by a vote of 415-0.

The premise of the bill is simple: to streamline Congressionally-mandated reporting requirements under a single, industry-wide report. I’ve consistently supported this goal because it frees the FCC to focus on its ultimate mission to protect the public interest and promote competition.

These reports and the data collected serve a critical role in supporting the FCC’s decision-making and our work as policymakers. Take for example the FCC’s Report on Cable Industry Prices which last year found the rate for expanded basic cable had tripled since 1995. Similarly, the Commission’s latest Broadband Progress Report found that 55 million Americans lack access to advanced broadband – nearly 20 percent of the country. Far worse are the results on Tribal lands where nearly two-thirds of residents lack access to today’s broadband speeds. The bill under discussion today ensures that this data will continue to be collected under a single report.

The Manager’s amendment I will offer with Rep. Scalise provides two important clarifications. First, our effort to consolidate reporting requirements, including the FCC’s ‘706’ Report does not in any way impact or alter the explicit grant of broadband authority that the court affirmed in the *Verizon* case last year.

Second, the amendment preserves the FCC’s obligation to examine how retransmission consent fees impact a consumer’s monthly bill. A product of the recent reauthorization of STELA, the collection of aggregate data will bring about much needed transparency as retrans fees reach an estimated \$5.1 billion this year.

I thank the Chairman and his staff for working with me to address these important concerns. With adoption of the Manager's amendment, I support and urge my colleagues to pass the *FCC Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015*.