

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
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Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.
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

Thank you Chairman Walden.

The communications market is one of the most vibrant sectors of the economy. Technology evolves at such a fast clip that two years – which amounts to one Congressional term – is a more like a lifetime when it comes to high innovation marketplaces. In fact, since the first iteration of the FCC Consolidated Reporting Act bill – the bill before us today – was first introduced in November 2011, five new iPhones models have been released. That is a lot of change.

The Federal Communications Commission has the primary responsibility for overseeing this fast paced market. As part of this charge, Congress has tasked the FCC with compiling reports to make information about these changing markets available to the public. Consumers and businesses rely on this data – as do the FCC and Congress.

These reports detail the state of play for far-flung aspects of the market from video programming to the state of wireless competition to barriers for entry for small businesses and more. No doubt some of these reports are outdated. Others overlap. We have a bipartisan interest in rationalizing these requirements and allowing the agency to use its limited resources more efficiently.

I am pleased that my Republican colleagues have worked with Democrats to ensure that in this effort to promote efficiency, we don’t inadvertently eliminate transparency for consumers about their cable bills. And I appreciate that we’ve come to agreement on bill text that does not alter the FCC’s authority over broadband under Section 706. Finally, I’d like to thank my colleague Ranking Member Eshoo for her continued leadership on these issues.

I look forward to continuing this conversation with our Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Senate. We all share an interest in good data collection and rational reporting obligations at the FCC. Thank you.