

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of**

Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce Ranking Member Janice Schakowsky

Hearing on “Federal Trade Commission Practices: A Discussion on Past Versus Present”

September 20, 2024

Chair Khan and the FTC are standing up for working families, seniors, and small businesses. The FTC is holding corporate lawbreakers accountable.

My Republican colleagues say that the FTC is overreaching. They are wrong. The FTC is stopping lawbreakers: corporate criminals, fraudsters, and greedy CEOs.

The FTC’s bold actions protect consumers from being deceived and bilked out of their hard-earned money. We must ensure the FTC can continue this essential work.

We must restore the FTC’s authority to get refunds for consumers. My bill with Rep. Cardenas would do just that. This week we reintroduced the “Consumer Protection and Recovery Act.” This bill ensures that fraudsters’ illegally obtained profits are returned to consumers.

When the FTC commissioners were before this subcommittee in July, all five bipartisan commissioners agreed we must restore their 13b authority.

I also introduced the “FTC Autonomy Act” so the FTC can fine violators the first time they offend.

We must continue strengthening the FTC with additional authorities so that they can further their mission of protecting consumers.

It is past time to hold accountable scofflaw companies and fraudsters who prey on consumers.