

**Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery  
of**

**Subcommittee on Innovation, Data and Commerce Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky**

***Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee Hearing on “Proposals to Enhance Product Safety and Transparency for Americans”***

**September 27, 2023**

Today, I join my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to consider 14 pieces of legislation. Five bills focus on product safety from pools to batteries. Several others address the unexpected junk fees squeezing Americans’ pocketbooks.

One of these is the “TICKET Act” which Chair Bilirakis and I introduced. Consumers are incredibly frustrated with the experience of buying event tickets. Their main frustration is surprise fees. One constituent of mine paid an additional 20% in fees, more than \$40, for tickets to her daughter’s dance performance. In other cases, fees can be up to 40% or higher. Our “TICKET Act” ends surprise fees like these. It makes the price you see the price you pay. Our bill also raises the issue of fake so-called “speculative tickets.” That’s when someone sells you a ticket they don’t have. I will continue working with all parties and across the aisle to address “speculative ticketing.”

Today, we also have the opportunity to discuss vehicle right-to-repair. I asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) last year to examine the issue. However, that is not a reason to wait to take action on this important issue. As our cars become increasingly computerized, the question is who can repair them. When consumers can’t choose where to get repairs it raises prices and unfairly disadvantages independent repair shops. I am pleased we are moving ahead and discussing car right-to-repair today.

However, I must mention the backdrop in which we are holding this hearing: namely the threat of a government shutdown. The proposals on today’s hearing rely on vital government agencies to implement them. And yet House Republicans want to cut these agencies’ budgets while giving them more responsibilities. I will continue fighting for consumers and to fully fund the government. Our hearing today demonstrates that—when this House is functioning—there is a lot we can do together to protect consumers.

I yield back.