

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Member Jake Auchincloss

Markup of 9 Bills, Full Committee

March 5, 2026

Thank you, Chairman. A little bit more than a year ago the President held a Meta inauguration where Mr. Zuckerberg was front and center, demonstrating to Americans where this President priorities were going to lie.

Since then Meta and others have helped renovate the East Wing of the White House and built data centers in Louisiana and now they are getting their reward, which is a Meta markup. And that is exactly what today is because what this bill does to double down on what the Congresswoman from New York just said, this markup is a vehicle for a false flag operation by Meta.

Where they put at the front of these bills all these nice sounding ideas and then they tuck in two things, an actual knowledge standard and preemption that nullifies everything that came before it. This is a blank check to big tech and Democrats are going to stand against it.

The reason that Meta wants this so badly is because Mr. Zuckerberg doesn't like what's happening right now. He is actually having to answer to a jury of his peers about the treatment of young people online, and it's finding some pretty disturbing things.

A third of all 10- to 12-year-olds in America are using Instagram, for example, despite the fact that Meta claims that should be impossible. They are finding out that their chatbots are allowed to hold sensual conversations with young people. We are finding out that Meta suppressed research on child safety. We are finding out that internally and externally they downplayed the risks to child safety despite knowing internally that their young users were suffering online.

Mr. Zuckerberg wants it to stop and so he comes to Congressional Republicans, and they make it stop for him. The opportunity cost there is that the litigation that can bring justice for these parents, these children will be halted in its tracks.

In my own district in Massachusetts, the town of Brookline has joined a class action suit that seeks to hold Meta and others accountable for treating our children like products, whose attention spans can be monetized, whose sense of self and society can be corroded. This lawsuit would never have been possible had this law that we are marking up today been in effect, and we must prevent this false flag operation from succeeding. I yield back.