

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Member Yvette D. Clarke

Markup of 9 Bills, Full Committee

March 5, 2026

Good morning and thank you Chairman Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone.

I'll get right to it; this Committee sounds like a broken record. Month after month and year after year Republicans have used this committee as a means to give more handouts to tech oligarchs under the guise of keeping kids safe online.

Today is no different as we prepare to discuss the same half-baked bills.

In our subcommittee markup in December, we agreed that we all wanted to see changes to these bills. Apparently three months was not enough time to reach any sort of consensus, let alone common sense

Republicans have gone as far as to create a partisan Frankenstein package made of their bad ideas falsely labeled as kids internet safety.

Some of the bills before this Committee today are ripe with contradictions, vague enforcement mechanisms, and directly undermine State authority. As I've said many times in this room, without a comprehensive federal standard, existing state laws are the only legislation keeping kids safe online right now.

These bills will make way for bad actors to data mine, or in other words, sell, license, rent, trade, transfer, release, disclose, or provide access to personal data. Let me spell it out for you, when a data miner gets the personal information of a child or teen – they profit on them for life.

The best solution to protect kids online is a federal data privacy standard that we can build off and include additional protection for children and teens.

Until my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decide to take this seriously and stop lining the pockets of big tech and data miners, no one will actually be safe online.

Let's go back to the drawing board work in a bipartisan manner to create clear preemption definitions and create a package that actually keeps children safe.

With that I yield back.