

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky

Markup of 16 Bills

November 2, 2023

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I am proud to have introduced the TICKET Act alongside you. This bill ends the surprise junk fees that can raise the cost of a ticket by 40% or more. With the TICKET Act, the price you see is the price you pay.

We also have a draft that will eliminate so-called “speculative ticketing”, which is when someone sells you a ticket that they don’t actually have. The Chair and I have been working closely together on this draft, which I support.

I appreciate your collaboration, Chair Bilirakis, and that of many stakeholders. There are a staggering 14 other bills and proposals on this markup. Not all of these bills are ready for prime time and some of the proposals on this markup are not the right solutions and don’t have my support. One in particular is the “Advancing the Gig Economy Act” which leaves workers—who are the engine of the gig economy—on the sidelines. But many of these bills are bipartisan and we’ve had constructive discussions on a few more.

I’d like to thank my Democratic colleagues for their hard work across the aisle on these bills. They address issues important to consumers like battery and pool safety. I am proud of our bipartisan work on this committee and many of the proposals we will mark up today. It shows that, when this House is functioning, there is a lot we can do together to protect consumers.

Unfortunately for the American people, the House has not been functioning. The last time we discussed these issues, we were on the brink of a government shutdown. And after three weeks of unprecedented Republican turmoil, here we are again, only two weeks away from another shutdown. House Republicans are moving appropriations bills that would strip funding from the very agencies these sixteen bills burden with additional work.

I urge my Republican colleagues to fully fund the government, including the FTC, CPSC, Department of Commerce, and NHTSA, so we can focus on helping the American people.

I yield back.