

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1245

To transfer unobligated balances made available for COVID–19 emergency response and relief to the Federal Communications Commission to enable the Commission to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2023

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To transfer unobligated balances made available for COVID–19 emergency response and relief to the Federal Communications Commission to enable the Commission to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Defend Our Networks
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN UNOBLIGATED BALANCES;**
2 **FUNDING OF PROGRAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COMMISSION; PROGRAM.—The terms “Com-
5 mission” and “Program” have the meanings given
6 those terms in section 9 of the Secure and Trusted
7 Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.
8 1608).

9 (2) COVERED ACCOUNTS.—The term “covered
10 accounts” means amounts made available under—

11 (A) the Coronavirus Preparedness and Re-
12 sponse Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020
13 (Public Law 116–123; 134 Stat. 146);

14 (B) the Families First Coronavirus Re-
15 sponse Act (Public Law 116–127; 134 Stat.
16 178);

17 (C) the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136;
18 134 Stat. 281);

19 (D) the Paycheck Protection Program and
20 Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law
21 116–139; 134 Stat. 620);

22 (E) division M or N of the Consolidated
23 Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–
24 260);

25 (F) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
26 (Public Law 117–2; 135 Stat. 4); or

1 (G) an amendment made by a provision of
2 law described in any of subparagraphs (A)
3 through (F).

4 (b) FUNDING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the unobligated balances,
6 as of the date of enactment of this Act, of the cov-
7 ered accounts, \$3,080,000,000 shall be transferred
8 not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
9 of this Act to the Commission to carry out the Pro-
10 gram.

11 (2) PRO RATA TRANSFER.—Unobligated bal-
12 ances shall be transferred under paragraph (1) on a
13 pro rata basis.

14 (3) USE AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—
15 Amounts transferred under paragraph (1) shall—

16 (A) be merged with other appropriations
17 for the Program;

18 (B) be subject to the same conditions and
19 limitations as the other appropriations for the
20 Program; and

21 (C) remain available until expended.

22 (4) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-
23 MENT.—Section 4(k) of the Secure and Trusted
24 Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.

- 1 1603(k) is amended by striking “\$1,900,000,000”
- 2 and inserting “\$4,980,000,000”.

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