

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4721.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015**

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1180) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1180

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015”.

**SEC. 2. INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM MODERNIZATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 526. INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM MODERNIZATION.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To provide timely and effective warnings regarding natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety, the Administrator shall—

“(1) modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States (in this section referred to as the ‘public alert and warning system’) to help ensure that under all conditions the President and, except to the extent the public alert and warning system is in use by the President, Federal agencies and State, tribal, and local governments can alert and warn the civilian population in areas endangered by natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety; and

“(2) implement the public alert and warning system to disseminate timely and effective warnings regarding natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety.

“(b) IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

“(1) establish or adopt, as appropriate, common alerting and warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating procedures for the public alert and warning system;

“(2) include in the public alert and warning system the capability to adapt the distribu-

tion and content of communications on the basis of geographic location, risks, and multiple communication systems and technologies, as appropriate and to the extent technically feasible;

“(3) include in the public alert and warning system the capability to alert, warn, and provide equivalent information to individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, and individuals with limited-English proficiency, to the extent technically feasible;

“(4) ensure that training, tests, and exercises are conducted for the public alert and warning system, including by—

“(A) incorporating the public alert and warning system into other training and exercise programs of the Department, as appropriate;

“(B) establishing and integrating into the National Incident Management System a comprehensive and periodic training program to instruct and educate Federal, State, tribal, and local government officials in the use of the Common Alerting Protocol enabled Emergency Alert System; and

“(C) conducting, not less than once every 3 years, periodic nationwide tests of the public alert and warning system;

“(5) to the extent practicable, ensure that the public alert and warning system is resilient and secure and can withstand acts of terrorism and other external attacks;

“(6) conduct public education efforts so that State, tribal, and local governments, private entities, and the people of the United States reasonably understand the functions of the public alert and warning system and how to access, use, and respond to information from the public alert and warning system through a general market awareness campaign;

“(7) consult, coordinate, and cooperate with the appropriate private sector entities and Federal, State, tribal, and local governmental authorities, including the Regional Administrators and emergency response providers;

“(8) consult and coordinate with the Federal Communications Commission, taking into account rules and regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission; and

“(9) coordinate with and consider the recommendations of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Subcommittee established under section 2(b) of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015.

“(c) SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.—The public alert and warning system shall—

“(1) to the extent determined appropriate by the Administrator, incorporate multiple communications technologies;

“(2) be designed to adapt to, and incorporate, future technologies for communicating directly with the public;

“(3) to the extent technically feasible, be designed—

“(A) to provide alerts to the largest portion of the affected population feasible, including nonresident visitors and tourists, individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, and individuals with limited-English proficiency; and

“(B) to improve the ability of remote areas to receive alerts;

“(4) promote local and regional public and private partnerships to enhance community preparedness and response;

“(5) provide redundant alert mechanisms where practicable so as to reach the greatest number of people; and

“(6) to the extent feasible, include a mechanism to ensure the protection of individual privacy.

“(d) USE OF SYSTEM.—Except to the extent necessary for testing the public alert and

warning system, the public alert and warning system shall not be used to transmit a message that does not relate to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster or threat to public safety.

“(e) PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015, and annually thereafter through 2018, the Administrator shall make available on the public website of the Agency a performance report, which shall—

“(A) establish performance goals for the implementation of the public alert and warning system by the Agency;

“(B) describe the performance of the public alert and warning system, including—

“(i) the type of technology used for alerts and warnings issued under the system;

“(ii) the measures taken to alert, warn, and provide equivalent information to individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and function needs, and individuals with limited-English proficiency; and

“(iii) the training, tests, and exercises performed and the outcomes obtained by the Agency;

“(C) identify significant challenges to the effective operation of the public alert and warning system and any plans to address these challenges;

“(D) identify other necessary improvements to the system; and

“(E) provide an analysis comparing the performance of the public alert and warning system with the performance goals established under subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives each report required under paragraph (1).”

(b) INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this subsection referred to as the “Administrator”) shall establish a subcommittee to the National Advisory Council established under section 508 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 318) to be known as the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Subcommittee (in this subsection referred to as the “Subcommittee”).

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Notwithstanding section 508(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 318(c)), the Subcommittee shall be composed of the following members (or their designees):

(A) The Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(B) The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

(C) The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce.

(D) The Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information of the Department of Commerce.

(E) The Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security.

(F) The Under Secretary for the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

(G) The Director of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(H) The Chairperson of the National Council on Disability.

(I) Qualified individuals appointed by the Administrator as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act from among the following:

(i) Representatives of State and local governments, representatives of emergency management agencies, and representatives of emergency response providers.

(ii) Representatives from federally recognized Indian tribes and national Indian organizations.

(iii) Individuals who have the requisite technical knowledge and expertise to serve on the Subcommittee, including representatives of—

(I) communications service providers;

(II) vendors, developers, and manufacturers of systems, facilities, equipment, and capabilities for the provision of communications services;

(III) third-party service bureaus;

(IV) the broadcasting industry, including public broadcasting;

(V) the commercial mobile radio service industry;

(VI) the cable industry;

(VII) the satellite industry;

(VIII) national organizations representing individuals with disabilities, the blind, deaf, and hearing-loss communities, individuals with access and functional needs, and the elderly;

(IX) consumer or privacy advocates; and

(X) organizations representing individuals with limited-English proficiency.

(iv) Qualified representatives of such other stakeholders and interested and affected parties as the Administrator considers appropriate.

(3) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall serve as the Chairperson of the Subcommittee.

(4) **MEETINGS.**—

(A) **INITIAL MEETING.**—The initial meeting of the Subcommittee shall take place not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) **OTHER MEETINGS.**—After the initial meeting, the Subcommittee shall meet, at least annually, at the call of the Chairperson.

(5) **CONSULTATION WITH NONMEMBERS.**—The Subcommittee and the program offices for the integrated public alert and warning system for the United States shall consult with individuals and entities that are not represented on the Subcommittee to consider new and developing technologies that may be beneficial to the public alert and warning system, including—

(A) the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency;

(B) entities engaged in federally funded research; and

(C) academic institutions engaged in relevant work and research.

(6) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Subcommittee shall—

(A) develop recommendations for an integrated public alert and warning system; and

(B) in developing the recommendations under subparagraph (A), consider—

(i) recommendations for common alerting and warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating procedures for the public alert and warning system; and

(ii) recommendations to provide for a public alert and warning system that—

(I) has the capability to adapt the distribution and content of communications on the basis of geographic location, risks, or personal user preferences, as appropriate;

(II) has the capability to alert and warn individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited-English proficiency;

(III) to the extent appropriate, incorporates multiple communications technologies;

(IV) is designed to adapt to, and incorporate, future technologies for communicating directly with the public;

(V) is designed to provide alerts to the largest portion of the affected population feasible, including nonresident visitors and tourists, and improve the ability of remote areas to receive alerts;

(VI) promotes local and regional public and private partnerships to enhance community preparedness and response; and

(VII) provides redundant alert mechanisms, if practicable, to reach the greatest number of people regardless of whether they have access to, or use, any specific medium of communication or any particular device.

(7) **REPORT.**—

(A) **SUBCOMMITTEE SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Subcommittee shall submit to the National Advisory Council a report containing any recommendations required to be developed under paragraph (6) for approval by the National Advisory Council.

(B) **SUBMISSION BY NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—If the National Advisory Council approves the recommendations contained in the report submitted under subparagraph (A), the National Advisory Council shall submit the report to—

(i) the head of each agency represented on the Subcommittee;

(ii) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(iii) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(8) **TERMINATION.**—The Subcommittee shall terminate not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

(d) **LIMITATIONS ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “participating commercial mobile service provider” has the meaning given that term under section 10.10(f) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—Nothing in this Act, including an amendment made by this Act, shall be construed—

(A) to affect any authority—

(i) of the Department of Commerce;

(ii) of the Federal Communications Commission; or

(iii) provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

(B) to provide the Secretary of Homeland Security with authority to require any action by the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission, or any nongovernmental entity;

(C) to apply to, or to provide the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency with authority over, any participating commercial mobile service provider;

(D) to alter in any way the wireless emergency alerts service established under the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (47 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) or any related orders issued by the Federal Communications Commission after October 13, 2006; or

(E) to provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency with authority to require a

State or local jurisdiction to use the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1180.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a long tradition of tackling FEMA and emergency management issues in a bipartisan manner.

□ 1715

I would like to acknowledge Chairman BARLETTA and Ranking Member CARSON of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee for leading efforts in the House to improve our Nation's Emergency Alert System.

Public alerts save lives. And their efforts, along with this bill, will save even more. This committee was the first to introduce legislation in 2008, and every Congress since, to modernize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, also known as IPAWS, because we recognized the critical need to provide timely and effective disaster warnings to our citizens and communities. Modernizing the alert and warning systems will help save lives.

At the committee's request, the GAO issued a report in 2009 detailing key problems with FEMA's development of IPAWS. GAO's findings supported the need for legislation to ensure consultation and coordination with key stakeholders, strategic planning, and the timely rollout of the new system. GAO issued a subsequent report in 2013 identifying a continued need for guidance and testing of the system.

We also heard from many stakeholders, including people with disabilities, the elderly, and industries like the broadcasters and wireless industry, that FEMA was not giving them a seat at the table as FEMA modernized the system. Involving these stakeholders who are the primary users and owners of the infrastructure is key. Without them, alerts couldn't go out.

I am happy to stand here and support the culmination of that work in S. 1180, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015. I commend the chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee for continuing to advocate for a nationwide integrated and interoperable system.

The IPAWS Modernization Act modernizes and integrates the Nation's alert and warning infrastructure to provide public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies.

This legislation sets a clear framework to ensure money is not wasted, while making certain key stakeholders a part of FEMA's modernization of the system. The bill will also ensure that the ongoing development and modernization of our Nation's alert system is done effectively and efficiently.

As technologies change, the legislation will ensure that this system adapts and continues to work toward the most effective alert and warning system possible. This system impacts everyone in America, Mr. Speaker. Whether it is a hurricane, tornado, flood or wildfire, unless we can ensure the public can be effectively alerted, lives will be at risk.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO); Chairman BARLETTA; and my good friend, Ranking Member PETER DEFAZIO.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure today. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 directs the administrator of FEMA to codify the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, commonly known as IPAWS.

With IPAWS, Mr. Speaker, public safety officials are able to warn the public of impending hazards using multiple communications platforms, such as radio and television broadcasts, mobile devices, and other Internet services. These warnings, Mr. Speaker, can even be geographically targeted so that only those in harm's way will receive the messages. All of this leads to saving lives, Mr. Speaker, and reducing property damage.

During the months of May and June, tornados are most likely to strike the great Hoosier State. Getting citizens to safety or even alerting them to shelter in place before a tornado strikes can ultimately be the difference between life and death. Success in that effort, Mr. Speaker, depends largely on access to timely and precise information.

During 2011, a violent storm caused the sudden collapse of a concert stage at the Indiana State Fair. This tragic incident killed seven and severely injured dozens more. It could have been much worse. Timely alerts enabled fair officials to clear the midway minutes before the storm struck, potentially saving hundreds of lives.

Our committee has primary jurisdiction over IPAWS, and we have worked hard, Mr. Speaker, on this issue for several Congresses. While this bill is similar to another bill—H.R. 1472—that the Transportation Committee reported last year, I am very disappointed that regular order was not

followed in S. 1180. It should have been referred to the committee of jurisdiction so that the House of Representatives can do the job we were elected to do: consider the details and implications of all the different provisions and how they impact our alert and warning system. Despite the lack of regular order, Mr. Speaker, I still support this measure greatly.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN).

Mr. DONOVAN. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I rise today in support of S. 1180, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015. This important legislation was introduced by the chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator RON JOHNSON.

IPAWS provides public safety officials with a mechanism to alert and warn the public about emergencies using multiple communication platforms, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and NOAA Weather Radio.

The bill we are considering today authorizes the IPAWS program and provides it with needed direction to help ensure that we can make available as much information to the public as possible in the event of a terror attack, natural disaster, or other threat to public safety.

We know that these alerts can help to save lives. IPAWS was used after the Boston Marathon bombings to direct residents to shelter during the manhunt. In my district, IPAWS was used to warn people during Hurricane Sandy. Elsewhere, IPAWS has been vital to locating missing children through the AMBER Alert system.

We also know that the system is not without its challenges. While I understand that in a recent test of the Emergency Alert System, a component of IPAWS, worked for stations in my home State of New York, there were challenges in other States. The test was canceled in several States due to weather concerns. However, a number of those States were not informed of the cancellation, leaving their broadcasters to wonder why the test didn't occur.

We must ensure better communication between IPAWS and relevant stakeholders. That is why the IPAWS subcommittee of the National Advisory Council, established in this bill, is so important.

This advisory committee will provide stakeholders with a mechanism to provide input into the program. Ensuring stakeholder engagement and feedback will serve to enhance the effectiveness of IPAWS.

The Committee on Homeland Security has a long history of oversight of the IPAWS program, having held a number of hearings and briefings. Legislation similar to the bill we are considering today was approved by the Committee on Homeland Security just last year.

Like the legislation passed out of the Committee on Homeland Security, this legislation is supported by the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Alliance of State Broadcasters Association, and CTIA—The Wireless Association. We thank these organizations for their continued engagement on this bill to improve the text and get us to this point.

The enactment of legislation to authorize IPAWS has been a long time coming. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation so that we can send it to the President's desk to be signed into law.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), a good friend of mine and the ranking member of the committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank my friend and the ranking member of the subcommittee for yielding to me on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, yes, indeed, we have spent a number of years overseeing, holding hearings, and working to push for a more modern public alert warning system. So this legislation is somewhat overdue. In fact, we passed similar legislation last year in the House.

I do support the legislation. However, I will point out that it is a bit irregular because we passed it a year ago, and suddenly we are passing a version which just happens to have come from a Senator who just happened to be one of the most vulnerable Republicans up for reelection so that he can get a notch on his belt. But that is the way things work around here: we get good things done for sometimes the wrong reasons. It should have been done a year ago. The Senate should have taken up our version.

That said, this will modernize the system tremendously. We are well past the days of CONELRAD alerts. Yet, technology has not moved as far as it could for the 21st century.

In particular, I was in Japan with a congressional delegation observing what they have done post the dramatic earthquake and tsunami events. They estimated the wave heights and were able to get the message out, to some extent, on public broadcasts and with sirens before further shocks brought down the grid and silenced, for the most part, the sirens.

Unfortunately, the first estimates were off. When the waves reached the nearshore monitoring devices, they found that they were considerably higher and a much more vigorous evacuation should have been conducted. Unfortunately, at that point they had no way to get the word out to the people who had gone to high ground, but

not high enough, or those who had sheltered in place when they believed the height of the tsunami would be less. So they lost many lives, they feel, unnecessarily, because of a lack of redundancy in the system.

This will move us toward a redundant system. They have now moved to a cellular-based system so that individuals can be alerted.

I was just at a tsunami event in the town of Florence, Oregon, called the Blue Line, where they have evacuation routes and people say: When do I stop running or driving?

And so they are painting lines on those critical routes showing what point where you are safe from the highest predicted tsunami. They did, essentially, a drill while we were there, but you couldn't even hear the siren. These are World War II-era raid sirens. Some work, some don't.

So we need a much more robust and redundant system because we know that in the Pacific Northwest and northern California, it is only when—not if—we will have a dramatic earthquake, potentially with a magnitude up to 9, with a subsequent tsunami.

We need in place both deep ocean detection to give more warning time, wave detection, and a robust system to inform the people where to go and how far they need to go in these events. This is overdue legislation, and I do urge its adoption.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1180, the Integrated Public Alert Warning System, or IPAWS, Modernization Act.

Modernizing our alert and warning capabilities is essential to keeping us safe. We must effectively communicate important information to the public during national emergencies, and our warning efforts must evolve with the growing and emerging threats of today.

During my time as chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, this was a top priority of mine. I have worked to update our alert and warning systems and utilize innovative new technologies.

Since the 112th Congress, I have introduced and advocated for the passage and enactment of this important piece of legislation, which is very similar to my bill, H.R. 1738.

During my work on the Integrated Public Alert Warning System Modernization Act, I heard from many stakeholders and experts who highlighted the need to ensure alert systems are available to the largest number of people, including individuals with disabilities and those living in rural areas.

In 2006, FEMA implemented the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, which improved public safety by quickly disseminating emergency messages and lifesaving information to the public. However, these systems have

not been modernized in decades, which is why I have consistently reintroduced this bill. With congressional oversight, we can ensure our constituents have alert systems that work reliably, effectively, and efficiently.

S. 1180 provides authorization to update our communications infrastructure to allow important information and alerts for instantaneous message delivery over cell phones, text messaging, the Internet, and broadcasting.

□ 1730

Additionally, this bill improves our capabilities and communications network by creating a national public warning working group to bring State and local officials together. This will ensure systems developers, regulators, users, and relay participants meet on a regular basis. This important legislation allows us to uphold our responsibility in the protection of the people we serve.

I want to thank Senator JOHNSON for his work and advocacy on this issue.

I also want to thank my colleagues: Representative SUSAN BROOKS; chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Chairman MCCAUL; and Subcommittee Chairman DONOVAN, for their support in cosponsoring my bill, H.R. 1738.

This is a great step in the right direction, and we must continue this progress of modernizing our capabilities with the passage of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF STATE  
BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATIONS,  
April 29, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The undersigned, who are the chief executive officers of the fifty State Broadcasters Associations in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, are pleased to offer our support and endorsement for H.R. 1738, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015.

If passed, this bill will ensure that more people receive life-saving information in more parts of America, more of the time, through current and future alert and warning technologies, while strengthening broadcasters' role as the backbone of America's public alerting system.

Many of us serve as chairs or members of our respective State Emergency Communications Committees, which are charged with managing the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in our states. We have all worked tirelessly to ensure that a robust, reliable alerting system is available when it is needed.

We have observed over the years that the system needs a higher level of coordination among the various federal, state and local public safety and emergency management agencies as "message originators" on the one hand, and the broadcast, cable and satellite "message relayers" on the other hand; and that the absence of any formal, ongoing training of state and local public safety and emergency management personnel on the proper use of EAS has hampered state and local officials' willingness and ability to use it efficiently in times of emergency, thus putting lives and property at risk.

This bill will address these problems and will make giant strides toward improvement

of alert and warning capability in our states and across our nation. We look forward to the successful passage of this important measure.

Very truly yours,

THE UNDERSIGNED CEOs OF THE FIFTY  
STATE BROADCAST TRADE ASSOCIATIONS.

Alabama Broadcasters Association, Sharon Tinsley; Alaska Broadcasters Association, Cathy Hiebert; Arizona Broadcasters Association, Art Brooks; Arkansas Broadcasters Association, Doug Krile; California Broadcasters Association, Stan Statham; Colorado Broadcasters Association, Justin Sasso; Connecticut Broadcasters Association, Michael C. Rice; Florida Association of Broadcasters, C. Patrick Roberts; Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Bob Houghton; Hawaii Association of Broadcasters, Jamie Hartnett; Idaho State Broadcasters Association, Connie Searles; Illinois Broadcasters Association, Dennis Lyle; Indiana Broadcasters Association, Joe Misiewicz; Iowa Broadcasters Association, Sue Toma; Kansas Association of Broadcasters, Kent Cornish; Kentucky Broadcasters Association, Gary White; Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, Polly Prince Johnson; Maine Association of Broadcasters, Suzanne Goucher; Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association, Lisa Reynolds.

Massachusetts Broadcasters Association, Jordan Walton; Michigan Association of Broadcasters, Karole L. White; Minnesota Broadcasters Association, Jim duBois; Mississippi Association of Broadcasters, Karla Hooten; Missouri Broadcasters Association, Mark Gordon; Montana Broadcasters Association, Dewey Bruce; Nebraska Broadcasters Association, Jim Timm; Nevada Broadcasters Association, Mary Beth Sewald; New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters, Jordan Walton; New Jersey Broadcasters Association, Paul Rotella; New Mexico Broadcasters Association, Paula Maes; New York State Broadcasters Association, David Donovan; North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, Wade Hargrove, Esq.; North Dakota Broadcasters Association, Beth Helfrich; Ohio Association of Broadcasters, Chris Merritt; Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, Vance Harrison; Oregon Association of Broadcasters, Bill Johnstone; Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, Rich Wyckoff.

Radio Broadcasters Association of Puerto Rico, Jose A. Ribas Dominicci; Rhode Island Broadcasters Association, Lori Needham; South Carolina Broadcasters Association, Shani White; South Dakota Broadcasters Association, Steve Willard; Tennessee Association of Broadcasters, White Adamson; Texas Association of Broadcasters, Oscar Rodriguez; Utah Broadcasters Association, Michele Zabriskie; Vermont Association of Broadcasters, Jim Condon; Virginia Association of Broadcasters, Doug Easter; Washington State Association of Broadcasters, Mark Allen; West Virginia Broadcasters Association, Michele Crist; Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, Michelle Vetterkind; Wyoming Association of Broadcasters, Laura Grott.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Indiana has 13½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1180, the "Integrated

Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015.”

I support this bill because it would address interoperability deficits among information technology systems and radio communications systems used by emergency services to exchange voice, data, disasters, and video in real time

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am intimately aware, as are many of my colleagues, of the essential and lifesaving role of communications during a crisis.

S. 1180 directs FEMA to establish the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Subcommittee to develop and submit recommendations for an integrated public alert and warning system to the National Advisory Council through: establishing common alerting and warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating procedures for the system; include in such system the capability to adapt the distribution and content of communications on the basis of geographic location, risks, and multiple communication technologies and to alert, warn, and provide equivalent information to individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs, or limited English proficiency; ensure that specified training, tests, and exercises for such system are conducted and that the system is resilient, secure, and can withstand external attacks; and conduct public education efforts and a general market awareness campaign about the system.

The bill requires the system to: be designed to adapt to and incorporate future technologies for communicating directly with the public, provide alerts to the largest portion of the affected population feasible, and improve the ability of remote areas to receive alerts; promote local and regional public and private partnerships to enhance community preparedness and response; provide redundant alert mechanisms; and protect individual privacy.

Because the tragedies of September 11, 2001, were compounded by communication failures among first responders who entered the burning towers that comprised the World Trade Center it has been an imperative of the Homeland Security Committee to address first responder communication interoperability challenges.

S. 1180 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated U.S. public alert and warning system to help ensure that under all conditions the President, federal agencies, and state, tribal, and local governments can alert and warn the civilian population in areas endangered by natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety.

Hurricane Katrina is an example of the need for emergency response agencies to be connected.

After the storm the majority of the rescue operations were being conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard locating people who were on the roofs of their houses.

The coast guard was not aware of the individuals who were stuck in their home calling 911, because they could not reach their roofs, causing about 986 Louisiana residents to perish after the storm due to the lack of effective communication.

An estimated 1,836 lives were lost as a result of the hurricane.

The City of Houston covers over a 1,000 square mile region in Southeast Texas. It has

a night-time population of nearly two million people, which peaks with over three million daytime inhabitants.

The city of Houston’s 9–1–1 Emergency Center manages nearly 9,000 emergency calls per day. The volume of emergency calls can easily double during times of inclement weather or special City social/sporting events like Hurricanes Ike in September 2008; and Katrina as well as Rita, which occurred in September and October of 2005.

The types and severity of potential emergencies can encompass floods, hurricanes, and industrial incidents which would require multiple emergency agencies to respond.

On the average, EMS responds to a citizen every 3 minutes. Each EMS response is made by one of 88 City of Houston EMS vehicles.

There are over 200,000 EMS incidents involving over 225,000 patients or potential patients annually.

In 2013, the City of Houston’s fire Department lost Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, Firefighter EMT Robert Garner and Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan when they responded to a hotel fire.

Throughout the history of the Houston Police Department over 110 officers have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Each member of the House of Representatives knows of the loss of a first responder who was going to the aid of those in harm’s way.

S. 1180 will offer additional resources that can save the lives of first responders and those they help.

S. 1180 will ensure that FEMA’s response to a crisis is organized with state and local resources.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of S. 1180.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1180.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o’clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2745, STANDARD MERGER AND ACQUISITION REVIEWS THROUGH EQUAL RULES ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 24, 2016, THROUGH APRIL 11, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114–461) on the resolution (H. Res. 653) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2745) to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority, and providing for proceedings during the period from March 24, 2016, through April 11, 2016, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COUNTERTERRORISM SCREENING AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4314) to require a plan to combat international travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, accelerate the transfer of certain border security systems to foreign partner governments, establish minimum international border security standards, authorize the suspension of foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply with such minimum standards, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 371, nays 2, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 130]

YEAS—371

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Cartwright
Adams	F.	Castro (TX)
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Chabot
Aguilar	Brady (TX)	Chu, Judy
Allen	Brat	Clark (MA)
Amodei	Bridenstine	Clarke (NY)
Ashford	Brooks (AL)	Clawson (FL)
Babin	Brooks (IN)	Clay
Barletta	Brown (FL)	Cleaver
Barr	Brownley (CA)	Clyburn
Barton	Buchanan	Coffman
Beatty	Buck	Cole
Benishek	Bucshon	Collins (GA)
Bera	Burgess	Collins (NY)
Bilirakis	Butterfield	Comstock
Bishop (GA)	Byrne	Conaway
Bishop (MI)	Calvert	Connolly
Black	Capps	Cyners
Blackburn	Capuano	Cook
Blum	Carney	Cooper
Bonamici	Carson (IN)	Costa
Bost	Carter (GA)	Costello (PA)
Boustany	Carter (TX)	Courtney