

should serve as a wake-up call to the energy sector. Similar attacks on products used in grid operators' IT networks could go undetected and, when exposed, result in the costly process of disabling and removing such products from operation.

Having a program that would allow for the testing of a product's cybersecurity would help grid operators share information and maintain coordination with the Federal Government to keep pace with evolving cybersecurity threats. H.R. 2928 would accomplish these goals.

Again, I want to thank Chairman PALLONE, Chairman RUSH, Leader RODGERS, and Leader UPTON for their support. I call on my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2928, the Cyber Sense Act of 2021.

The Cyber Sense Act is another piece of bipartisan legislation that takes steps to improve the security of our Nation's electric grid infrastructure. It would establish a program to identify cyber secure products for the bulk-power grid through a testing and verification program.

The bulk-power system is essential for providing reliable electric power to the American people. We must ensure that this system is as secure as possible. Any vulnerable component in our grid is a threat to our security, and this bill will take important steps to strengthen the system.

It would also require the Department of Energy to provide technical assistance to electric utilities, manufacturers, and other relevant stakeholders related to cybersecurity vulnerabilities in products under the Cyber Sense program.

In today's world, there are literally billions of connected devices in use and the number is rapidly increasing. Most of these devices have no standards. There is no way for electric utilities to verify the security of the products, and we are seeing cyber threats continue to increase. This legislation is badly needed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. LATTA, again for his partnership on this bill. We have been working together on a number of issues, and this is a sign of our partnership.

I also thank Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member RODGERS for working with us to move this legislation quickly, and I don't want to forget the staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee, who have been so helpful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I am ready to close.

Mr. Speaker, again, as the gentleman from California mentioned about the

ongoing cyberattacks we have had in this country, it is absolutely essential that we get this bill across the finish line. H.R. 2928 is going to help accomplish these goals and protect our grid out there.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2928.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### EMERGENCY REPORTING ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1250) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1250

*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 "Emergency Reporting Act".

#### SEC. 2. REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM; IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.

(a) REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM.—

(1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 weeks after the deactivation of the Disaster Information Reporting System with respect to an event for which the System was activated for at least 7 days, the Commission shall issue a preliminary report on, with respect to such event and to the extent known—

(i) the number and duration of any outages of—

- (I) broadband internet access service;
- (II) interconnected VoIP service;
- (III) commercial mobile service; and
- (IV) commercial mobile data service;

(ii) the approximate number of users or the amount of communications infrastructure potentially affected by an outage described in clause (i);

(iii) the number and duration of any outages at public safety answering points that prevent public safety answering points from receiving emergency calls and routing such calls to emergency service personnel; and

(iv) any additional information determined appropriate by the Commission.

(B) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORT.—The Commission shall develop the report required by subparagraph (A) using information collected by the Commission, including information collected by the Commission through the System.

(2) PUBLIC FIELD HEARINGS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 8 months after the deactivation of the Disaster Information Reporting System with respect to an event for which the System was activated for at least 7 days, the Commission shall hold at least 1 public field hearing in the area affected by such event.

(B) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN HEARINGS.—For each public field hearing held under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall consider including—

(i) representatives of State government, local government, or Indian Tribal governments in areas affected by such event;

(ii) residents of the areas affected by such event, or consumer advocates;

(iii) providers of communications services affected by such event;

(iv) faculty of institutions of higher education;

(v) representatives of other Federal agencies;

(vi) electric utility providers;

(vii) communications infrastructure companies; and

(viii) first responders, emergency managers, or 9–1–1 directors in areas affected by such event.

(3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the deactivation of the Disaster Information Reporting System with respect to an event for which the System was activated for at least 7 days, the Commission shall issue a final report that includes, with respect to such event—

(A) the information described under paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) any recommendations of the Commission on how to improve the resiliency of affected communications or networks recovery efforts.

(4) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORTS.—In developing a report required under this subsection, the Commission shall consider information collected by the Commission, including information collected by the Commission through the System, and any public hearing described in paragraph (2) with respect to the applicable event.

(5) PUBLICATION.—The Commission shall publish each report, excluding information that is otherwise exempt from public disclosure under the rules of the Commission, issued under this subsection on the website of the Commission upon the issuance of such report.

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall conduct a proceeding and, after public notice and an opportunity for comment, adopt rules to—

(1) determine the circumstances under which to require service providers subject to the 9–1–1 regulations established under part 9 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, to submit a timely notification, (in an easily accessible format that facilitates situational awareness) to public safety answering points regarding communications service disruptions within the assigned territories of such public safety answering points that prevent—

(A) the origination of 9–1–1 calls;

(B) the delivery of Automatic Location Information; or

(C) Automatic Number Identification;

(2) require such notifications to be made; and

(3) specify the appropriate timing of such notification.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTOMATIC LOCATION INFORMATION; AUTOMATIC NUMBER IDENTIFICATION.—The terms “Automatic Location Information” and “Automatic Number Identification” have the meaning given those terms in section 9.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term “broadband internet access service” has the meaning given such term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(3) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given such term in section 332(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

(4) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE.—The term “commercial mobile data service” has the meaning given such term in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

(5) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The terms “Indian Tribal government” and “Indian Tribal Government” have the meaning given those terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121).

(7) INTERCONNECTED VOIP SERVICE.—The term “interconnected VoIP service” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

(8) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The term “public safety answering point” has the meaning given such term in section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222).

(9) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1250.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1250, the Emergency Reporting Act. This is an important and timely piece of legislation as many of our Western States are currently experiencing devastating wildfires, and as we enter another Atlantic hurricane season, obviously, it is important in my area as well.

We rely on our communication devices every day, but it is critical that we have a signal or a connection during an emergency. In our world today, connectivity isn't a luxury; it is essential to ensuring our collective safety. Often, it can be the difference between life and death.

It is the responsibility of the Federal Communications Commission to ensure

that Americans stay connected when it matters most and that communication providers are prepared for whatever disasters might come their way. So if we want to improve the reliability of the communication networks, we must begin with better data.

The Disaster Information Reporting Systems, or DIRS, was launched by the FCC in 2007 so that the communication providers could report the status of communications systems during disasters.

In some cases, DIRS is activated in advance of a potential storm as a precautionary measure. In more extreme cases, DIRS is activated in the lead-up to a disaster and stays active for days on end. That is because networks can go on- and offline even after a storm's end.

Under this bill, the FCC would be required to conduct an analysis of any disaster or event for which DIRS is activated by the FCC and stays active for a minimum of 7 days.

First, the FCC would be required to issue a preliminary report within 6 weeks after the date DIRS is deactivated, and this report would include detailed information about the number of outages, whether communications infrastructure was affected, and how many 911 centers were affected by service outages.

The bill would then require the FCC to hold a field hearing not later than 8 months after the Commission deactivates DIRS. By making sure the FCC gets out of Washington and sees and hears real stories from the impacted areas, the FCC will get the opportunity to examine these events, the outages they cause, and how we can prevent them from happening in the future.

I commend Representative MATSUI, a senior leader of our committee, for her leadership on this bill and her passion for improving communications resiliency and reliability.

I also thank my Republican colleagues for working with us to move this bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee and out of the full House last Congress. This is a good bill that will help us make our communication systems more resilient in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the measure and look forward to its consideration by the Senate and the President, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1250, the Emergency Reporting Act, that was introduced by Representatives MATSUI, BILIRAKIS, ESHOO, THOMPSON, and HUFFMAN.

Today's legislation will allow 911 centers across the country to have access to confidential information on potential 911 outages, subject to appropriate safeguards.

In times of disaster, 911 public safety answering points do not always know that 911 calls may not be going

through. The Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, currently collects information on the status of communications infrastructure and communications network outage information. They make that information available to the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate overall emergency response efforts within a State between State and local first responders.

Given the sensitive nature of this data to both national security and commercial competitiveness, this information is confidential. However, as first responders work to ensure the 911 system can seamlessly get back online and route calls to the neighboring call centers, access to this confidential information is important.

This bill would help make timely outage information available to help first responders on the ground restore service as quickly as possible.

The bill also requires the FCC to hold a field hearing in areas in which the Commission's Disaster Information Reporting System, DIRS, is activated for more than 7 days and to provide an initial and final report on the status of communication networks.

The FCC only activates the DIRS system for significant natural disasters, such as major hurricanes or wildfires, and the bill limits these types of reports to only areas where damage was significant and sustained.

This is an important bill to the resiliency of public safety networks, and I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. I have no speakers, so the gentleman from Ohio may proceed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is, again, a very important piece of legislation that has come out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. It is important to make sure that we do have that resiliency out there for our 911 system, which is so important to that person picking up that phone call but also who is receiving it on the other end.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to pass the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1250.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1445

**MEASURING THE ECONOMICS DRIVING INVESTMENTS AND ACCESS FOR DIVERSITY ACT OF 2021**

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1754) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to consider market entry barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals in the communications marketplace report under section 13 of such Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1754

*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 “Measuring the Economics Driving Investments and Access for Diversity Act of 2021” or the “MEDIA Diversity Act of 2021”.

**SEC. 2. CONSIDERING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.**

Section 13(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 163(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **CONSIDERING SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.**—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1) and regulatory barriers under subsection (b)(3), the Commission, with the input of the Office of Communications Business Opportunities of the Commission, shall consider market entry barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals in the communications marketplace in accordance with the national policy under section 257(b).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. PALLONE. 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 H.R. 1754.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1754, the Measuring the Economics Driving Investments and Access for Diversity Act of 2021, or the MEDIA Diversity Act of 2021.

This bill promotes much-needed diversity in the communications marketplace. It does this by requiring the Federal Communications Commission, with the input of its Office of Communications Business Opportunities, to consider market entry barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals in the communications marketplace.

Currently, there are vast inequities in the communications marketplace. While women and people of color make up over 50 percent of our population, broadcast ownership by them is only about 10 percent. That is extremely concerning, Mr. Speaker, when you think that media outlets can influence people's opinions and perceptions through the programming decisions that are made.

Diversity in ownership of media outlets helps to ensure that programming offers different perspectives and that viewers have access to programming that is relevant to them. Experts have also found that ownership diversity can provide financial and competitive benefits. But in a concentrated communications marketplace, barriers for entry still exist, and the Federal Communications Commission is already tasked with studying what those barriers are. This bill asks the FCC to also consider market entry barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals.

Creating ownership parity to reflect this country's diversity is a worthy goal, and this bipartisan effort is a step in identifying market entry barriers.

To be clear, there is so much more that we need to do, Mr. Speaker. While incremental steps are critical, we must do more. I look forward to working with my colleagues to take additional steps to diversify our media market.

I commend Representatives LONG and VEASEY for their bipartisan work on this legislation. I hope we can now come together in a bipartisan fashion to do the additional work that is needed to finally eliminate the barriers so that the owners of our media outlets begin to look more like the communities that they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the MEDIA Diversity Act of 2021, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1754, the MEDIA Diversity Act, introduced by my colleague from Missouri, Representative LONG. This legislation represents another step forward to uplift minority voices and promote diversity in the media marketplace.

I understand how important it is to serve communities with local programming that accurately reflects a community's population. I have also seen the media industry make great strides to promote diversity and create new content to appeal to the communities they serve by establishing programs and initiatives to promote opportunities for women, minorities, veterans, elderly, and other socially disadvantaged individuals to participate in the media marketplace.

Of course, the media industry is only one small part of a vast communications marketplace that encompasses a large variety of organizations, including mobile wireless providers, online video distributors, fixed broadband providers, and so on.

It is also important to keep in mind that there are new entrants in the tech industry who are providing additional opportunities for minorities, women, veterans, and underrepresented groups who might not have been heard before to make their voices heard.

Nonetheless, there is still work to do to make sure that those previously unheard voices and underserved communities are represented in traditional media and all other areas of the large communications marketplace, and this legislation will help.

I am glad to support this piece of bipartisan legislation that will allow the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate the market barriers socially disadvantaged individuals face in the communications marketplace as a whole.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all Members to support this piece of legislation. It is very important. It was introduced by our colleague, Mr. LONG from Missouri.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1754.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

**REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO MEDIA DIVERSITY**

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 277) reaffirming the commitment to media diversity and pledging to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

**H. RES. 277**

Whereas the principle that an informed and engaged electorate is critical to a vibrant democracy is deeply rooted in our laws of free speech and underpins the virtues on which we established our Constitution, “in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . .”;

Whereas having independent, diverse, and local media that provide exposure to a broad