

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

range of viewpoints and the ability to contribute to the political debate is central to sustaining that informed engagement;

Whereas it is in the public interest to encourage source, content, and audience diversity on our Nation's shared telecommunications and media platforms;

Whereas the survival of small, independent, and diverse media outlets that serve diverse audiences and local media markets is essential to preserving local culture and building understanding on important community issues that impact the daily lives of residents;

Whereas research by the American Society of News Editors, the Radio Television Digital News Association, the Pew Research Center, and others has documented the continued challenges of increasing diversity among all types of media entities;

Whereas with increasing media experience and sophistication, it is even more important to have minority participation in local media to ensure a diverse range of information sources are available and different ideas and viewpoints are expressed to strengthen social cohesion among different communities; and

Whereas the constriction in small, independent, and diverse media outlets and limited participation of diverse populations in media ownership and decision making are combining to negatively impact our goal of increasing local civic engagement and civic knowledge through increased voter participation, membership in civic groups, and knowledge of local political and civil information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to diversity as a core tenet of the public interest standard in media policy; and

(2) pledges to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to develop common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to media diversity.

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. Res. 277.

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. 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.

This resolution promotes much-needed diversity in the communications marketplace where we continue to see vast inequities. For example, the owners of broadcast and cable media outlets do not reflect our diverse population. Owners of these media outlets make critical decisions about the educational, political, entertainment, and

news programming Americans watch. These decisions can influence people's opinions and perceptions.

Mr. Speaker, diversity in viewpoints and diverse ownership of media outlets promotes programming that offers different perspectives and enables viewers to access programming that is relevant to them. A diverse media marketplace is also central to an informed and engaged electorate which is essential to a vibrant democracy.

Committing to a diverse media marketplace—one that reflects our Nation—is a worthy goal, and this resolution reaffirms that goal.

Today's resolution is a good step forward, but there is much more we need to do. The numbers and statistics are clear: our media marketplace does not resemble the people we serve.

I want to commend Representative DEMINGS for her work on this resolution and for continuing to bring attention to not only the lack of diversity in our media outlets, but also the impact that it has on our communities and on our Nation. I hope we can come together to do the additional work that is needed to improve the state of diversity today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution, 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. Res. 277, a resolution introduced by our colleague, Mrs. DEMINGS.

This resolution reaffirms the commitment by Congress to work with media entities and diverse stakeholders to find common ground solutions to eliminate barriers to expanding diversity in our media. While today's resolution focuses specifically on broadcast stations, this problem is not unique to one segment of the industry, but to their cable and digital streaming competitors in the marketplace as well.

I appreciate the many steps that the broadcast and cable industries have taken to not only recognize these barriers, but the many programs and initiatives they have put in place to promote opportunities for women, minorities, and veterans. However, data shows we have some room for improvement.

While the House is considering this resolution today, it is my hope that we can work together in a bipartisan manner to address the inequality that this resolution seeks to address. Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee have put forward solutions to uplift minority voices and promote media diversity that can breathe life into this resolution before us today.

Today, we are also considering H.R. 1754, the MEDIA Diversity Act, sponsored by Mr. LONG, which would help us better understand the market and regulatory barriers for socially disadvantaged individuals to enter and compete in the marketplace so we can make informed policy decisions.

We have also worked with advocates and industry alike as we try and find consensus on legislation to establish the long-sought-after broadcast incubator program to help increase the number of minority-owned broadcast stations.

Last Congress, Republicans introduced the Broadcast Diversity in Leadership Act, which would incentivize large, established broadcasters to work with aspiring broadcasters to break down barriers to capital and provide mentorship and experience to new minority entrants to ensure their long-standing success in serving their local communities.

While the Supreme Court has recently reinstated the Republican-led pilot program, Congress should continue working to ensure it is expanded and made permanent with improved safeguards. We urge the majority to continue working with us on these important issues.

With the passage of this resolution, we are affirming our commitment to work toward common ground solutions, and Republicans stand ready to work across the aisle to turn our common ground solutions into law.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), who is the sponsor of the resolution.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for this opportunity.

We all know the United States is a diverse nation with diverse people, diverse viewpoints, and diverse perspectives. Every community in America—no matter their age, gender, ZIP Code, or income—should be allowed to tell their stories in their voices.

Whether in news, movies, television, music, or more, it is important that our media represent the wonderful diversity of our great Nation. This resolution simply states that all Americans should have the opportunity to tell their story and hear their story told through their own eyes and voices.

I am glad that our resolution reaffirming Congress' support of media diversity will be voted on this afternoon. As we work together to remove barriers, I am grateful to all of the congressional cosponsors on both sides of the aisle and media representatives who helped move this bill forward.

Every child in America should hear a voice that sounds like theirs and see a face that looks like theirs. As we face some of America's greatest challenges, I am excited about the work still yet to come.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues again on both sides of the aisle for their support of this resolution.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H. Res. 277, I ask the House for its passage today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution, 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 277.

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.

PROMOTING UNITED STATES WIRELESS LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3003) to direct the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3003

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 “Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP OF UNITED STATES IN COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5G networks and for future generations of wireless communications networks, the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) equitably encourage participation by companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) in such standards-setting bodies; and

(2) equitably offer technical expertise to companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) to facilitate such participation.

(b) STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.—The standards-setting bodies referred to in subsection (a) include—

(1) the International Organization for Standardization;

(2) the voluntary standards-setting bodies that develop protocols for wireless devices and other equipment, such as the 3GPP and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; and

(3) any standards-setting body accredited by the American National Standards Institute or Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall brief the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Foreign Relations of the Senate on a strategy to carry out subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 3GPP.—The term “3GPP” means the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

(2) 5G NETWORK.—The term “5G network” means a fifth-generation mobile network as described by 3GPP Release 15 or higher.

(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(4) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term “cloud computing” has the meaning given the term in Special Publication 800-145 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, entitled “The NIST Definition of Cloud Computing”, published in September 2011, or any successor publication.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term “communications network” means any of the following:

(A) A system enabling the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user’s choosing.

(B) Cloud computing resources.

(C) A network or system used to access cloud computing resources.

(6) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted” means, with respect to a company or stakeholder, that the company or stakeholder is determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose a threat to the national security of the United States. In making such a determination, the Assistant Secretary shall rely solely on one or more of the following determinations:

(A) A specific determination made by any executive branch interagency body with appropriate national security expertise, including the Federal Acquisition Security Council established under section 1322(a) of title 41, United States Code.

(B) A specific determination made by the Department of Commerce pursuant to Executive Order No. 13873 (84 Fed. Reg. 22689; relating to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain).

(C) Whether a company or stakeholder produces or provides covered telecommunications equipment or services, as defined in section 889(f)(3) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232; 132 Stat. 1918).

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. 3003.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3003, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2021. This legislation will help ensure the U.S. continues to lead the world in advanced communications technologies and deployments. It does that by directing the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA, to encourage participation by American stakeholders and standards-setting bodies, such as the Third Generation Partnership Project, better known as 3GPP, and the IEEE.

The legislation also calls on the NTIA to offer technical assistance to U.S. stakeholders that do elect to participate in developing standards for 5G networks and future generations of communication networks.

Other governments around the world are engaged in the standards-setting process for advanced telecommunications technologies, and discussions about 6G are already underway. This legislation will give our stakeholders the ability to better engage in policy choices that are being made today by the standards-setting bodies. These policy choices will have far-reaching implications for the development of 5G and other advanced communication technologies in the future.

By ensuring that globally developed standards meet the needs of the U.S. and our partners, this bill will help the U.S. continue to innovate. It will also help us guard against nontrusted actors hijacking standards-setting processes, which is an important component of our continued engagement on future communications technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend this bipartisan effort from Representatives WALBERG, DINGELL, JOHNSON, and KUSTER. I also want to thank our colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee and Chairman MEEKS, in particular, for working with us to bring this legislation to the floor.

I hope we can come together on this important issue, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, July 19, 2021.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR PALLONE: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 3003, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2021. This legislation contains provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In an effort to work cooperatively and to expedite the consideration of the aforementioned bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs will waive referral of H.R. 3003. This, however, is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on Foreign