

Indiana (Mr. PENCE), my friend and also a member of the committee.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in staunch support of the bipartisan Secure Equipment Act of 2021.

Hoosiers back home in my home State of Indiana rely heavily on telecom companies to connect them with the critical services they need, particularly healthcare through telehealth. When foreign adversaries, like Communist China, try to prey upon these companies, they are in turn attempting to prey upon hardworking Americans like my constituents. That is why I am proud today to join my colleagues in supporting this vital legislation that would ensure the Federal Government prevents any further Chinese state-backed equipment from being used here in the United States.

This bill is vital to our national security, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, does the whip have any additional speakers?

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman does not, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I would just again join, along with my colleague, ANNA ESHOO from California, in urging all Members of the House to pass the Secure Equipment Act and protect the privacy of data from Americans as well as that sensitive information that flows across networks that is also held by the government.

Let's delist and not certify companies that have already been deemed by the FCC to be national security threats. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I would urge, again, bipartisan support. This is an important next step in our effort to try to secure our equipment and prevent foreign actors, such as the Chinese, from interfering with our national security, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3919, the Secure Equipment Act of 2021, as amended.

For over a decade, I have raised concerns about how the vulnerabilities in our telecommunications infrastructure directly impact our national security. On November 2, 2010, I wrote to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) expressing grave concerns about Huawei and ZTE, which have opaque relationships with the Chinese government.

Sadly, in the intervening eleven years, telecommunications companies have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in equipment made by Huawei and ZTE because the equipment is the cheapest available.

On March 12, 2020, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Secure and

Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (STCNA), which directed the FCC to: (i) establish a list of companies deemed to be a national security threat; (ii) prohibit the use of federal funds for purchasing equipment made by those companies; and (iii) authorize funding for U.S. carriers to rip and replace equipment made by those companies. The FCC's list includes Huawei, ZTE, and other companies linked to the Chinese government.

STCNA was a significant step forward for our national security. However, U.S. companies can still privately purchase equipment from these companies. This allows potentially vulnerable equipment into our wireless systems which is a threat to our national security because compromised equipment can include hard-to-detect surveillance capabilities.

On June 15, 2021, Representative STEVE SCALISE and I introduced H.R. 3919 to prohibit the FCC from approving any telecommunications equipment made by companies deemed to be a national security threat. Senators MARCO RUBIO and ED MARKEY have companion legislation in the Senate. The legislation is supported by the FCC's Democratic Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Republican Commissioner Brendan Carr.

The bill was considered and favorably advanced by voice vote, first by the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology and then by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The companion bill was favorably advanced by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

As I stated when STCNA was being considered by our chamber, no one bill can fully protect our telecommunications networks. The threats we face are constantly evolving, and Congress must remain diligent in ensuring our communications are secure, private, and reliable.

H.R. 3919 is a highly important and necessary complement to STCNA and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

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. 3919, as amended.

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. GOOD of Virginia. Madam 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.

OPEN RAN OUTREACH ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4032) to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding the benefits of Open RAN networks, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4032

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 "Open RAN Outreach Act".

SEC. 2. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL PROVIDERS REGARDING OPEN RAN NETWORKS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Assistant Secretary shall conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to small communications network providers—

(1) *to raise awareness regarding the uses, benefits, and challenges of Open RAN networks and other open network architectures; and*

(2) *regarding participation in the Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program established under section 9202(a)(1) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283).*

(b) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *ASSISTANT SECRETARY.*—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, acting through the head of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth.

(2) *OPEN NETWORK ARCHITECTURE.*—The term "open network architecture" means Open RAN networks and other network elements that follow a set of published open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability, including open core and open transport.

(3) *OPEN RAN NETWORK.*—The term "Open RAN network" means a wireless network that follows the Open Radio Access Network approach to standardization adopted by the O-RAN Alliance, Telecom Infra Project, or Third Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), or any similar set of published open standards for multi-vendor network equipment interoperability.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to provide outreach and technical assistance to small providers regarding Open RAN networks, and for other purposes."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam 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. 4032.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4032, the Open RAN Outreach Act.

Open RAN, or Open Radio Access Network, technology is an emerging wireless network architecture that has the potential to drive 5G innovation forward. But like any new technology, we still have much to learn about the possibilities, complexities, and challenges of Open RAN. This is especially true for smaller communications providers.

This bill steps up to the challenge by providing small communications providers with the support they need to

determine whether Open RAN is an appropriate network solution for them. Under the bill, the Assistant Secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, will be required to engage in outreach and provide technical assistance to small communications providers concerning the uses, benefits, and challenges of Open RAN and other open network architectures.

NTIA will also inquire about the providers' participation in the Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program, which was established in the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

Madam Speaker, I commend Representatives ALLRED, O'HALLERAN, GUTHRIE, and HUDSON for their bipartisan work on this bill. This is a good bill, as it ensures that our country's small communications providers have the necessary help to make informed decisions about the need for new technology in their wireless networks.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill in a bipartisan manner, and I look forward to its consideration in the Senate. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, again, I rise today in support of H.R. 4032, the Open RAN Outreach Act, which was introduced by Representatives ALLRED, GUTHRIE, O'HALLERAN, and HUDSON.

Open RAN compatible technology will play an important role as communications networks evolve over the coming decade. While most networks today are limited to integrated systems provided by one or two vendors, the deployment of Open RAN compatible technology will encourage innovation, competition, and new entrants in the communications marketplace.

By encouraging a robust market for Open RAN compatible technology, the cost of trusted equipment is expected to decrease over time. These lower costs will help smaller wireless providers deploy mobile broadband cost effectively without having to turn to untrusted vendors like Huawei.

As small, and often rural, providers upgrade to 5G and replace untrusted Huawei or ZTE equipment, we must keep in mind the difficulty these providers may have in taking advantage of some of the programs offered in Washington.

H.R. 4032 would require NTIA to conduct outreach and technical assistance to these small and rural providers to make sure they have the information necessary if they choose to take advantage of Open RAN compatible technologies.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED).

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, our Nation's future depends on protecting our wireless networks from vulnerabilities and untrusted vendors like Chinese-backed companies. That is why today I rise in support of my bipartisan bill, the Open RAN Outreach Act.

This bill encourages the administration to provide outreach and technical assistance to small communications network providers regarding how to use Open Radio Access Networks, or Open RAN technologies, including those produced in my district in north Texas.

Many carriers use a closed or proprietary network, meaning that they need to use one vendor or manufacturer. This can place a substantial cost burden on smaller carriers to reduce costs, potentially by using cheaper, Chinese-owned alternatives like Huawei.

Open RAN allows different components to be produced by different companies, leading to a more diverse and competitive supply chain. My legislation ensures smaller carriers have the tools they need to deploy Open RAN if desired, helping secure our wireless networks.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" in support of this bill.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4032, the Open RAN Outreach Act.

Untrusted telecommunication companies, such as Chinese Communist Party-backed Huawei, are able to offer low-cost equipment to small and rural providers across the globe due to the Chinese Government subsidizing them.

Due to congressional action, untrusted vendors can no longer provide telecommunications equipment in the U.S., and bills I have supported, such as Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act and USA Telecommunications Act, help remove untrusted equipment to secure our networks and promote competition.

The Open RAN Outreach Act further builds on our efforts to strengthen our supply chain and ensure untrusted equipment is kept out of American telecommunications networks.

Open RAN technology can help diversify telecommunications technology and help increase competition. This technology is an open network infrastructure that can have multiple components from multiple manufacturers.

The Open RAN Outreach Act requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide small and rural providers information on the opportunities and challenges of implementing Open RAN compatible technology.

If providers would like to use this technology, this bill also requires NTIA to support implementation of Open RAN technologies. Promoting a

more competitive market of trusted alternative vendors to provide 5G equipment remains an important component in the strategy to protect U.S. networks.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representatives ALLRED, HUDSON, and O'HALLERAN for working with me on this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I know we had the hearing on Open RAN in committee, and I heard the testimony that day, and how we can expand our networks across the country is absolutely essential. As we know, as we go into the different types of technologies, we are going to need as much as we possibly can, and so this bill is going to help.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the sponsors for bringing it before us today. I urge support of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, in closing, I would ask that Members support this bill that helps our small communications providers, 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. 4032, as amended.

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. GOOD of Virginia. Madam 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.

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4067) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4067

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 "Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council Act".

SEC. 2. COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the