

between health care providers or, as applicable and appropriate, longitudinal childhood cancer survivorship cohorts"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in each of paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking "date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "date of enactment of the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research Reauthorization Act of 2022"; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (C);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (A); and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) recommendations for enhancing or promoting activities of the Department of Health and Human Services related to workforce development for health care providers who provide psychosocial care to pediatric cancer patients and survivors."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) 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 S. 4120.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE). 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.

I rise in support of S. 4120, the Senate companion to H.R. 7630, the Childhood Cancer STAR Reauthorization Act. Last night, this bill passed in the Senate by unanimous consent, and I am glad that we are now considering it under suspension.

Mr. Speaker, cancer is the leading cause of death in American children, yet only 4 percent of the National Cancer Institute's budget is dedicated to childhood and adolescent cancer research.

Since its original implementation, the STAR Act has provided resources for State cancer registries to identify and track pediatric cancer incidence, enhance research on childhood cancer survivorship and innovative treatment models, and support the pediatric cancer workforce.

The bill before us reauthorizes the STAR Act for 5 years at \$30 million per year, requires a report on researcher access to cancer biorepository samples, and expands research to evaluate survivorship and treatment approaches in children and adolescents with cancer.

I thank the House and Senate sponsors and families across the country who have advocated for this important reauthorization.

I look forward to the STAR Act passing and adding on to the Energy and Commerce Committee's efforts in the 117th Congress to enhance pediatric cancer research, such as the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0 and ARPA-H.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4120, the Childhood Cancer STAR Reauthorization Act led by Mr. MCCAUL. This program at the National Institutes of Health is integral to the fight against childhood cancers and also helps inform how best to care for those who are childhood cancer survivors.

The Childhood Cancer STAR Act, enacted in 2018, has been fully funded each year and has led to new standards of care for childhood cancer survivors, increased the ability for new childhood cancer research at NIH, and helped collect better data about prevalence of childhood cancers.

This straight reauthorization, at currently reauthorized levels, also includes a report to Congress to make sure that researchers outside of NIH are able to capitalize on the work facilitated by the STAR Act.

This bill passed the House by unanimous consent and has over 100 cosponsors in the House. I plan to support it today. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to come to the floor of the House and talk about childhood cancer and not talk about a young lady that I knew when I was about 9 or 10 years old, Tam Hanback. Over the last probably 45, 46 years, I have thought about her often. Every time I see St. Jude's commercials, I think about her from our Sunday school class.

If we had the technology then that we have today, she would probably be 58 years old, just like I am, but unfortunately, we didn't.

So in honor of her, Tam Hanback, from Alabama, I will support this bill, and I encourage my friends to do so as well.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, this is an important piece of legislation. I ask all Members on both sides of the aisle to support it.

Mr. Speaker, 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, S. 4120.

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.

□ 1200

#### MARTHA WRIGHT-REED JUST AND REASONABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1541) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Com-

munications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for telephone and advanced communications services in correctional and detention facilities.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1541

*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 "Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 276 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 276) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking "per call";

(B) by inserting "and all rates and charges are just and reasonable," after "fairly compensated";

(C) by striking "each and every";

(D) by striking "call using" and inserting "communications using"; and

(E) by inserting "or other calling device" after "payphone"; and

(2) in subsection (d), by inserting "and advanced communications services described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (D), and (E) of section 3(1)" after "inmate telephone service".

(b) DEFINITION OF ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.—Section 3(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) any audio or video communications service used by inmates for the purpose of communicating with individuals outside the correctional institution where the inmate is held, regardless of technology used."

(c) APPLICATION OF THE ACT.—Section 2(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 152(b)) is amended by inserting "section 276," after "sections 223 through 227, inclusive,".

#### SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) RULEMAKING.—Not earlier than 18 months and not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall promulgate any regulations necessary to implement this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) USE OF DATA.—In implementing this Act and the amendments made by this Act, including by promulgating regulations under subsection (a) and determining just and reasonable rates, the Federal Communications Commission—

(1) may use industry-wide average costs of telephone service and advanced communications services and the average costs of service of a communications service provider; and

(2) shall consider costs associated with any safety and security measures necessary to provide a service described in paragraph (1) and differences in the costs described in paragraph (1) by small, medium, or large facilities or other characteristics.

#### SEC. 4. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify or affect any Federal, State, or local law to require telephone service or advanced communications services at a State or local prison, jail, or detention facility or prohibit the implementation of any safety and security measures related to such services at such facilities.

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 S. 1541.

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 S. 1541, the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022.

Communications technology has evolved rapidly in recent years, benefiting all of us. Whether it is a small business using broadband to find new customers, the delivery of healthcare through telehealth, or having educational resources for job training available at our fingertips, modern communications have made a significant economic impact but also a very clear human impact, as well. This became even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, as we relied on communications networks to remain connected, even when we couldn't be together.

Mr. Speaker, we know that maintaining connections with loved ones and our community is crucial. Whether a simple phone call or a video chat, staying in touch with a friend or loved one down the street or across the country is incredibly meaningful. These connections are also important to individuals who are incarcerated, but for them, this communication is far more costly and difficult than it should be.

Studies have shown that regular contact with family members lowers the rate of recidivism. Yet, due to a broken system, it can sometimes cost as much as \$1 a minute to make a call to or from a prison, jail, or other confinement facility. This can make it all but impossible for some families to maintain contact with a son or daughter, mom or dad, or sister or brother, especially if and when in-person visitation is limited, as it has been during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is no coincidence that incarcerated persons are subjected to these exorbitant rates. In most if not all cases, one company has a monopoly in the facilities it serves. Unfortunately, kickbacks, not competition, are often the deciding factor in which company is selected.

The Federal Communications Commission has previously exercised the authority it has to reduce some of the rates charged in confinement facilities, but its authority is currently limited, preventing it from fully solving this persistent problem.

Recently, a court found that it cannot regulate the rates charged for calls

made between confinement facilities and people within the same State. This bill would give the FCC this authority and also clarify its authority over video communications.

It is my hope that this bill will help reduce financial burdens that prevent people from being able to communicate with loved ones and friends.

I commend my friend, Representative RUSH, for steadfastly championing this issue for so long. I hope we can pass this bill today and send it to the President's desk so he can sign it into law. That would be a fitting tribute to another piece of legislation that Representative RUSH got signed into law before retiring at the end of this Congress. I am going to miss him here in the House and in the Committee on Energy and Commerce, where he has been a strong and passionate leader for decades.

I also thank Senators DUCKWORTH and PORTMAN, who worked so hard to find compromise and pass this bill in the Senate, along the way garnering the support of a diverse group of organizations, including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Color of Change, and the National Sheriffs' Association. This is a bill we can all be proud of supporting.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act, 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 S. 1541, the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022.

Martha Wright-Reed was an advocate for the District of Columbia who fought tirelessly for incarcerated people to have a voice. Ms. Reed dedicated her life to ensuring that people who were incarcerated could afford to communicate with their loved ones from a confinement facility.

The legislation before us today will honor Ms. Reed's legacy. S. 1541 would require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that charges for pay phone services, including advanced communications services in correctional institutions, are just and reasonable.

Given the unique market they serve, providers of inmate calling services are also identifying ways to lower costs, such as through offering a subscription model. In some States, a pilot program to offer a flat rate for unlimited time on the phone has resulted in inmates calling family more often at a lower cost than on a per-minute basis.

I urge the FCC to evaluate the results of these efforts to lower costs and facilitate competition in the inmate calling marketplace before imposing heavy-handed regulations.

Our colleague, Representative BOBBY RUSH, has championed this legislation for many years. I applaud him for his leadership, and I am glad we will be

sending this to the President's desk to cap his distinguished career in Congress.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his courtesies. I thank the manager, as well, for rising for this important legislation, which is, of course, S. 1541, the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act.

As the chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, I see these issues in terms of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Obviously, these issues are rampant in State prisons, as well.

What is the basis of the issue? It is family. It is family connectedness. We have heard over and over again how exorbitant the cost is for grandmothers, mothers and fathers, and sisters and brothers to keep connections to individuals who, yes, have committed a crime, have been convicted, and are incarcerated, but they should not have been left out of the circle of humanity and family and the ability to stay connected.

This particular person, Martha Wright-Reed, is a person who has been an advocate. But the story surrounds a grandmother who wanted to be involved with her grandson and wound up spending thousands of dollars to be able to communicate, to keep that grandson realizing that even though he had steered in a different direction, maybe a wrong direction, she wanted to make sure that that grandson knew that he was loved and that he had a future.

This is the plight of many of my constituents and those around the Nation who have loved ones incarcerated, who are blocked because of the exorbitant cost that really takes their mortgage or their ability to buy food because the cost is so high.

I am very grateful to Congressman RUSH's leadership and Senator DUCKWORTH, who I had a chance to speak with about how important this legislation is. I rise enthusiastically to support it. I might add, it will be a light to many people who have given up as they have been incarcerated.

I want to take a moment as well to acknowledge two bills that have just been spoken about: S. 3946, the Abolish Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2022, and S. 3949, the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022. I will simply say, as we all know, human trafficking is one of the greatest ongoing threats to human rights in the world and in this country. An estimated 25 percent of human trafficking victims are reportedly in my home State.

These bills are a step forward in funding grants, but as well, I think it is extremely important to recognize

that there are other aspects of human trafficking that we must stomp out.

I am very glad that these bills are on the floor today, along with the underlying bill that I am supporting, as well as the Childhood Cancer STAR Reauthorization Act. As a person who has been involved with M.D. Anderson and Texas Children's Hospital, I know that this is going to be an important bill as it relates to childhood cancer.

Finally, in my conclusion, I simply add my support, again, for S. 1541, the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act. I will say that it will save many of those who are incarcerated. It will put them on a pathway of rehabilitation, and it will be fair to those families who cannot afford to spend this amount of money just to communicate with their loved ones.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank everyone. This is obviously a very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support on a bipartisan basis, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1541, the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act, which is the Senate companion to my bill, H.R. 2489. The bill ends the practice of phone companies charging families astronomically high rates to call incarcerated loved ones in prison. These rates are unjust and unreasonable, and I am elated that this bill will finally put an end to them.

Right now, families of incarcerated people are forced to pay prohibitively expensive fees to stay connected with their loved ones through simple phone calls. It is inhumane and immoral.

We all gain when incarcerated people can remain connected to their support networks, because they have a better likelihood of not returning to jail or prison. Yet, the extreme costs of making a phone call—as much as \$25 for a 15-minute call—makes it nearly impossible for families to maintain connections. It is long past time that we prevent greedy companies from exorbitantly profiting off of families' need to stay connected.

Martha Wright, the namesake of this bill, needlessly suffered as she tried to stay in touch with her grandson when he was incarcerated.

Today, there are millions of Martha Wrights around the country who make similar sacrifices while supporting family members inside prisons and jails. One in three families go into debt just to call their loved ones.

That is unconscionable, Mr. Speaker.

These safeguards to protect families from exploitation already has widespread support. A 2020 poll commissioned by Worth Rises found that over 70 percent of Americans support providing phone calls in prisons and jails at no cost.

This fight has been decades in the making.

My friend Charlie Sullivan brought the issue to my attention when hardly anyone knew about these astronomical costs unless they were directly impacted. I introduced legislation in 2005 for the first time to address this shameful practice. Since then, protestors have repeatedly gathered outside the Federal Communications Commission, director Ava

Duvernay has taken up the cause, and the issue has been featured in podcasts and on television.

In recent years, New York City, San Francisco, San Diego, Dallas, and the State of Connecticut made phone calls free for incarcerated people.

The FCC also took steps to lower costs. But due to a 2017 Federal court decision, its authority has been restricted to only regulating calls that cross state lines. That decision made a mockery of families, creating a perverse world in which families that are just a few miles away from their incarcerated loved ones can be charged inhumane costs for a simple phone call.

That is why I took up this issue again, introducing updated and revised legislation: the Martha Wright Prison Phone Justice Act.

The legislation would confirm the FCC's regulatory power to protect all prison and jail phone calls, not just those that cross state lines. It would also establish interim rate caps of no more than five cents per minute while the FCC conducts a proceeding to determine permanent rate caps.

The House passed my bill last year, and I reintroduced the legislation this Congress alongside Senator DUCKWORTH to get the bill across the finish line. I am delighted and proud that the bill passed the Senate yesterday and will pass the House today. I have spent my entire 30 years in the House fighting for those with no voice, the downtrodden in our society, and today's vote is a culmination of those efforts. Together, we can make sure families and loved ones stay connected.

The success of this legislation would also not be possible without Martha Wright and other activists who have dedicated their lives to helping the families of the incarcerated. We are now continuing the work that they started.

I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague Chairman FRANK PALLONE, who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and his staff for his help getting this bill over the finish line.

I also want to recognize Senators TAMMY DUCKWORTH and ROB PORTMAN for their work moving the bill through the Senate.

I hope others will join me in voting in favor of this legislation. It is past time that we put an end to the practice of phone companies profiting off of vulnerable families who have no other choice.

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, S. 1541.

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.

#### LOW POWER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3405) to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue a rule providing that certain low power television stations may be accorded primary status as Class A television licensees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3405

*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 "Low Power Protection Act".

#### SEC. 2. LOW POWER TV STATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission;

(2) the term "Designated Market Area" means—

(A) a Designated Market Area determined by Nielsen Media Research or any successor entity; or

(B) a Designated Market Area under a system of dividing television broadcast station licensees into local markets using a system that the Commission determines is equivalent to the system established by Nielsen Media Research; and

(3) the term "low power TV station" has the meaning given the term "digital low power TV station" in section 74.701 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide low power TV stations with a limited window of opportunity to apply for the opportunity to be accorded primary status as Class A television licensees.

(c) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to issue a rule that contains the requirements described in this subsection.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The rule with respect to which the Commission is required to issue notice under paragraph (1) shall provide that, during the 1-year period beginning on the date on which that rule takes effect, a low power TV station may apply to the Commission to be accorded primary status as a Class A television licensee under section 73.6001 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Commission may approve an application submitted under subparagraph (A) if the low power TV station submitting the application—

(i) satisfies—

(I) section 336(f)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 336(f)(2)) and the rules issued under that section, including the requirements under such section 336(f)(2) with respect to locally produced programming, except that, for the purposes of this subclause, the period described in the matter preceding subclause (I) of subparagraph (A)(i) of such section 336(f)(2) shall be construed to be the 90-day period preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of 73.6001 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation;

(ii) demonstrates to the Commission that the Class A station for which the license is sought will not cause any interference described in section 336(f)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 336(f)(7)); and

(iii) as of the date of enactment of this Act, operates in a Designated Market Area with not more than 95,000 television households.

(3) APPLICABILITY OF LICENSE.—A license that accords primary status as a Class A television licensee to a low power TV station as a result of the rule with respect to which the Commission is required to issue notice under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be subject to the same license terms and renewal standards as a license for a full power television broadcast station, except as