

This bill would instruct the FCC to work with the CDC to incorporate publicly available data on severe maternal morbidity and mortality into its Mapping Broadband Health in America platform.

Using this data, we can more accurately identify the communities with high maternal morbidity and mortality rates that lack broadband connectivity. This will allow for the government to better target areas with critical telehealth services and, ultimately, pave the way for better health outcomes for new and expecting mothers.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, again, I rise in support of H.R. 1218, the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act, and I urge all Members to support this legislation.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I urge bipartisan support for this bill as part of our continued effort to address maternal mortality, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1218, the "Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act" which directs the Federal Communications Commission to identify areas of the country where poor maternal health rates overlap with deficiencies in broadband access that are needed to effectively deploy telehealth services.

In the United States, black women are 2 to 6 times more likely to die from complications of pregnancy than white women, depending on where they live.

Dating back to maternity mortality analysis from 1979 to 1992, the overall pregnancy-related mortality ratio was 25.1 deaths per 100,000 for black women, 10.3 for Hispanic women, and 6.0 for non-Hispanic white women.

During 2011–2015, the pregnancy-related mortality ratios were—

42.8 deaths per 100,000 live births for black non-Hispanic women;

32.5 deaths per 100,000 live births for American Indian/Alaskan Native non-Hispanic women;

14.2 deaths per 100,000 live births for Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic women;

13.0 deaths per 100,000 live births for white non-Hispanic women; and

11.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for Hispanic women.

Madam Speaker, Black women in the United States experience unacceptably poor maternal health outcomes, including disproportionately high rates of death related to pregnancy or childbirth.

Both societal and health system factors contribute to high rates of poor health outcomes and maternal mortality for Black women, who are more likely to experience barriers to obtaining quality care and often face racial discrimination throughout their lives.

Health inequity stems from economic inequality and its contributing factors including sexism and racism. To that point, Black women are typically paid just 63 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.

Median wages for Black women in the United States are \$36,227 per year, which is \$21,698 less than the median wages for white, non-Hispanic men.

These lost wages mean Black women and their families have less money to support themselves and their families and may have to choose between essential resources like housing, childcare, food, and health care.

These trade-offs are evident in Black women's health outcomes and use of medical care.

Compared to white women, Black women are more likely to be uninsured, face greater financial barriers to care when they need it and are less likely to access prenatal care.

Black women experience higher rates of many preventable disease and chronic health conditions including diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease.

When Black women choose to become pregnant, these health conditions influence both maternal and infant health outcomes.

To improve Black women's maternal health, we need a multi-faceted approach that addresses Black women's health across the lifespan, improves access to quality care, addresses social determinants of health and provides greater economic security. Comprehensive data on maternal health is certainly a part of that approach.

Black women are three to four times more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than white women.

Black women are more likely to experience preventable maternal death compared with white women.

Black women's heightened risk of pregnancy-related death spans income and education levels.

Black women experience more maternal health complications than white women. Black women are more likely to experience complications throughout the course of their pregnancies than white women.

Black women are three times more likely to have fibroids (benign tumors that grow in the uterus and can cause postpartum hemorrhaging) than white women, and the fibroids occur at younger ages and grow more quickly for Black women.

Black women display signs of preeclampsia earlier in pregnancy than white women. This condition, which involves high blood pressure during pregnancy, can lead to severe complications including death if improperly treated.

Black women experience physical "weathering," meaning their bodies age faster than white women's due to exposure to chronic stress linked to socioeconomic disadvantage and discrimination over the life course, thus making pregnancy riskier at an earlier age.

Primarily Black-serving hospitals provide lower quality maternity care, where seventy-five percent of Black women give birth.

Those same hospitals also have higher rates of maternal complications than other hospitals. They also perform worse on 12 of 15 birth outcomes, including elective deliveries, non-elective cesarean births and maternal mortality.

Many Black women have a difficult time accessing the reproductive health care that meets their needs. Access to reproductive health care, which helps women plan their families, improves health outcomes for women and children.

Black women experience higher rates of unintended pregnancies than all other racial

groups, in part because of disparities in access to quality contraceptive care and counseling.

Many Black women lack access to quality contraceptive care and counseling.

For example, in a recent analysis of California women enrolled in Medicaid, Black women were less likely than white or Latina women to receive postpartum contraception, and when they did receive it, they were less likely to receive a highly effective method.

Black women's access to abortion is limited, and they may be more likely to experience the ill effects of abortion restrictions—such as delayed care, increased costs or lack of access to care.

Black and Hispanic adults in the United States remain less likely than White adults to say they own a traditional computer or have high-speed internet at home, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Jan. 25 to Feb. 8, 2021.

In addition, only 40 percent of Black adults report having broadband access in their homes. This figure is another testament to the inhibitions black women face in getting the care they need, which this act aims to resolve.

It is for that reason Madam Speaker I support the "Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act."

Comprehensive data on maternal health will play a role in saving the lives of pregnant black women, so I am proud to support this Act.

Though there is still much work to be done, this bill is a good first step in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to support this potentially life-saving piece of legislation.

For far too long black women have disproportionately suffered lower maternal health rates and outcomes. The passage of this Act finally provides us a route to remediation.

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. 1218, 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.

#### SPECTRUM COORDINATION ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2501) to require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to update the memorandum of understanding on spectrum coordination, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2501

*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 "Spectrum Coordination Act".*

**SEC. 2. UPDATE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SPECTRUM COORDINATION BETWEEN NTIA AND FCC.**

*Not later than December 31, 2022, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission shall update the Memorandum of Understanding on Spectrum Coordination entered into in January 2003, to—*

*(1) improve upon the process for resolving frequency allocation disputes in shared or adjacent allocations between the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that such disputes are definitively resolved in an efficient and timely manner;*

*(2) ensure that spectrum is used efficiently; and*

*(3) establish reasonable timelines for the exchange of information between the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission in order to maintain effective spectrum coordination and collaboration.*

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. 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. 2501.

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. 2501, the Spectrum Coordination Act.

Our country's airways are foundational to next-generation wireless networks. These networks offer so much promise to better our lives, as they can promote enhanced telehealth services and educational opportunities and offer new ways of engaging in entertainment and e-commerce. These networks can also help propel advancements in manufacturing and enhance critical public safety communications to save lives.

□ 1715

But to achieve these important objectives, our airwaves must be managed competently and correctly. Unfortunately, in recent years, our country has not hit this mark. Instead, the two agencies charged by Congress to manage the public's airwaves, the FCC and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, have often bickered and refused to coordinate their efforts.

I am pleased to see that with new leadership over the last year, the FCC and NTIA have begun to make some headway towards ensuring the Federal Government once again speaks with one voice in overseeing our airwaves.

H.R. 2501 helps advance the ball even further. This legislation requires the

FCC and NTIA to update their memorandum of understanding on spectrum coordination by the end of this year. The last time this MOU was updated was in 2003, and much has changed since then. An updated MOU will reaffirm the commitment of these two agencies to provide and allocate our airwaves in a way that best serves consumers, commercial carriers, and Federal agencies in the days and months to come.

Over the past several years, the Energy and Commerce Committee has worked on a bipartisan basis on several important telecommunications matters. I want to commend Subcommittee Chairman DOYLE and Representative BILIRAKIS for continuing this tradition through their leadership and bipartisan work in advancing this bill out of the committee. I hope the Senate can follow suit soon.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to likewise support the Spectrum Coordination Act in a bipartisan manner, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2501, the Spectrum Coordination Act, which was introduced by Representative BILIRAKIS.

For decades, the United States has led the world in wireless innovation. That leadership was built on effective spectrum management. As we look to beat China and usher in the next wave of wireless technology, we must continue to make more spectrum available, both for commercial and government uses.

As the demand for more wireless technology grows, spectrum management decisions, like balancing commercial and government uses, have become more complex.

For nearly a century, the Federal Communications Commission has effectively managed commercial spectrum use. As the expert technical agency on spectrum matters, the FCC must continue to rely on science and engineering as its guide.

Just as the demand for commercial spectrum continues to grow, so does demand for government spectrum, specifically for use by Federal agencies. Access to spectrum is an important ingredient to the missions of many Federal agencies. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the NTIA, is also responsible for managing Federal spectrum uses.

The NTIA and the FCC must work together to maintain the United States' wireless leadership, and it is essential that the NTIA continues to lead the executive branch's spectrum coordination efforts.

To help formalize these coordination efforts, in 2003 the FCC and the NTIA signed a memorandum of understanding to coordinate Federal and non-Federal spectrum matters to ensure our spectrum is put to its highest

and best use. This interagency agreement has not been updated in nearly 20 years.

Today's legislation requires the FCC and the NTIA to update their MOU to reflect the new spectrum management landscape so the United States will retain its wireless leadership for years to come.

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

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the co-lead on this legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I thank Subcommittee Chair DOYLE, the ranking member of the subcommittee, and the chairman of the full committee as well for their support.

The spectrum landscape has changed dramatically since 2003, Madam Speaker, with increased demand for wireless spectrum, fueling new technologies and possibilities.

While spectrum auctions have occurred over the years, the memorandum of understanding between NTIA and the FCC has not been updated to reflect the ever-changing landscape.

While these agencies have recently made strides to update the MOU since I introduced this bill last Congress, codifying this action will ensure that these agencies are held accountable to get the job done.

After hearing from both the NTIA and the FCC leadership over the last several weeks, I am glad to see this legislation move forward in the House and encourage the Senate to also see its importance in preventing agency miscommunication as we manage the Nation's spectrum.

Madam Speaker, we need to get this through.

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2501, the Spectrum Coordination Act.

Spectrum is a finite and high-demand resource that, when allocated correctly, fuels innovation. The industries that use spectrum are rapidly evolving, and Federal coordination of spectrum should evolve with it.

That is why I am proud to support the Spectrum Coordination Act, sponsored by my friend, Congressman BILIRAKIS. While the industries that use spectrum continue to modernize at an accelerating pace, the memorandum of understanding between the NTIA and the FCC on spectrum coordination has not been updated since 2003.

This commonsense bill would instruct the NTIA and FCC to update their nearly 20-year-old MOU, ensuring

that they work together seamlessly to resolve disputes while ensuring spectrum is allocated as efficiently as possible. I strongly urge all my colleagues to support the Spectrum Coordination Act.

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

First, I thank the chairman of our Energy and Commerce Committee for helping get this bill to the floor. I greatly appreciate his work and leadership, and also for the members' work on this, and also the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), as the chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee.

As we have heard today, the United States has to retain its leadership in wireless for the years to come, and it really requires the FCC and the NTIA to work together, especially on this MOU, because of the new spectrum management that we have to have out there and the landscape that we have.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I would ask bipartisan support for this bill, which will continue the objective of trying to coordinate better between the two agencies, the FCC and the NTIA.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2501, the "Spectrum Coordination Act" which requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to update the Memorandum of Understanding on Spectrum Coordination to improve the process for resolving frequency allocation disputes in shared or adjacent spectrum bands and ensure the efficient use or sharing of spectrum.

The memorandum of understanding formalizes the cooperative relationship between the two agencies to ensure that spectrum policy decisions promote efficient use of spectrum consistent with both the economic interests and national security of the Nation.

Spectrum encompasses a variety of communications, from extremely low frequencies which are used by military submarines to communicate with one another, to extremely high frequencies which allow all of us to use Wi-Fi in our homes and at work.

Spectrum is also critical for air travel, one of the most important industries in the United States and the world. It provides pilots and air traffic controllers the ability to communicate from surface to air, ensuring passenger safety and scheduled arrival at their destinations.

In terms of domestic national security, spectrum is crucial in saving lives. Due to the devastating effects of climate change, we are seeing natural disasters that are more devastating than ever before. The effects of these disasters demand an equally significant response from our first responders, from local police all the way to FEMA.

Thanks to the manipulability of spectrum, we have created dedicated interoperable frequencies for first responders, allowing them to effectively communicate with their counterparts and save more lives.

Madam Speaker, properly designating jurisdiction of spectrum or radio wave oversight is critical in maintaining this country's economic prosperity and national security.

Our society is increasingly relying on technology, and therefore spectrum, every day.

We must update this memorandum to accurately assess and subsequently assign jurisdiction based on the technological advances we have made since the memorandum's last update in 2003.

Since 2003, the Internet has transitioned from a luxury to a commodity, smart phones are mandatory to be able to fully participate in society, and threats to national security have evolved in ways we never thought possible.

In addition, spectrum allocation will even be increasingly important in the distant future.

Astronomers use specialized devices to read radio waves emitted from outer space, allowing us to learn more about the universe and its origins. Just last week The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory released a new image of what it called astronomy's newest mystery: the Odd Radio Circle or ORC.

Astronomers have spotted only a handful of ORCs. They're huge, about a million light-years across which is 16 times bigger than our Milky Way galaxy. Despite this, the ORCs are hard to see. They're visible only at radio wavelengths.

Right now, we don't know what ORCs are or what causes them, but one day we will. The case could be made that when we do know more, it will be objectively critical knowledge because humans are explorers, and space is our next frontier.

Space is the next place we will go, and maybe not in this generation nor the one after that, but one day we will go. Humans will need all the information they can get while exploring the unknown, and all of it will be thanks to radio waves and those who read them and understood them. Their importance truly cannot be understated.

Madam Speaker, I firmly believe these factors make updating this memorandum of the utmost necessity, so I am proud to support the "Spectrum Coordination Act" and urge my colleagues to as well.

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. 2501, 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.

#### MEDICAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5657) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to make marijuana accessible for use by qualified marijuana researchers for medical purposes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5657

*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 "Medical Marijuana Research Act".

#### SEC. 2. FACILITATING MARIJUANA RESEARCH.

(a) PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services—

(1) until the date on which the Secretary determines that manufacturers and distributors (other than the Federal Government) can ensure a sufficient supply of marijuana (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802), as amended by section 8) intended for research by qualified marijuana researchers registered pursuant to paragraph (3) of section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(f)), as added by section 3, shall—

(A) continue, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, to produce marijuana through the National Institute on Drug Abuse Drug Supply Program;

(B) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, act jointly with the Attorney General of the United States to establish and implement a specialized process for manufacturers and distributors, notwithstanding the registration requirements of section 303 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 823), to supply qualified marijuana researchers with marijuana products—

(i) available through State-authorized marijuana programs; and

(ii) consistent with the guidance issued under subsection (c); and

(C) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, jointly convene with the Attorney General a meeting to initiate the development of the specialized process described in subparagraph (B); and

(2) beyond the date specified in paragraph (1), may, at the Secretary's discretion, continue—

(A) through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, to so produce marijuana; and

(B) to implement such specialized process.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO VERIFY REGISTRATION.—Before supplying marijuana to any person through the National Institute on Drug Abuse Drug Supply Program or through implementation of the specialized process established under subsection (a)(1)(B), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) require the person to submit documentation demonstrating that the person is a qualified marijuana researcher seeking to conduct research pursuant to section 303(f)(3) of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by subsection (d) of this section, or a manufacturer duly registered under section 303(1) of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by section 3 of this Act; and

(2) not later than 60 days after receipt of such documentation, review such documentation and verify that the marijuana will be used for such research (and for no other purpose authorized pursuant to this Act or the amendments made by this Act).

(c) GUIDANCE ON USE OF STATE-AUTHORIZED MARIJUANA PROGRAMS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue guidance related to marijuana from State-authorized marijuana programs for research.

(d) RESEARCH.—Section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively;