

# 5G SPECTRUM AUTHORITY LICENSING ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2787) to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to process applications for spectrum licenses from applicants who were successful bidders in an auction before the authority of the Commission to conduct auctions expired on March 9, 2023.

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

S. 2787

*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 “5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act” or the “5G SALE Act”.

## SEC. 2. FCC PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR SPECTRUM LICENSES AWARDED BY AUCTION.

In the case of any applicant for a license or permit for the use of spectrum in the band of frequencies between 2496 megahertz and 2690 megahertz, inclusive, that the Federal Communications Commission selected through a system of competitive bidding conducted under section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) on or before March 9, 2023, and to whom the Commission has not granted the license or permit as of the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission may process the application of the applicant during the 90-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2787, the 5G SALE Act, which will help restore trust in our Nation's wireless technology ecosystem and enable faster mobile broadband service for millions of Americans nearly overnight.

The 5G SALE Act would deliver on our promise to provide access to our airways for those who successfully won a license at auction before March 9, 2023. These licenses have been locked up since the expiration of the Federal Communications Commission's auction authority earlier this year.

While I will continue to work with my colleagues on a long-term solution to reauthorize auction authority, today's legislation is a positive step to ensuring that the FCC can finalize the review and award licenses to companies whose checks have already cleared the Treasury.

The 5G SALE Act will ensure that those relying on advanced mobile broadband services, especially our veterans who access VA telehealth services, will benefit from American investment in these technologies.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2787, the 5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act, or the 5G SALE Act.

Spectrum is one of our country's most important natural resources. These radio waves are a critical component in building next-generation wireless networks and delivering connectivity to Americans across the country. Without spectrum, our wireless networks would not be able to help millions of Americans study for school, meet with their health provider, connect with family and friends, and place a call to 911 during a time of need. In order to have this kind of connectivity that we have all come to expect, we must ensure that consumers have access to the spectrum that has been made available for commercial wireless use.

S. 2787 achieves these objectives. This legislation gives the FCC the authority for 90 days to process spectrum license applications that are currently pending at the agency from its auction last year of the 2.2 gigahertz band. While I hoped Congress would have extended the SEC spectrum auction authority by now, this legislation is an important step forward in allowing commercial spectrum to be used by consumers, especially those in unserved areas and rural communities.

It is important that we pass this bill today, but even with this action, our work will still not be done. We must find a way forward on a bipartisan, bicameral spectrum agreement that can be sent to the President's desk for his signature. As Chair RODGERS and I have said for months, it is critical that we reauthorize the FCC spectrum auction authority as soon as possible. I am concerned that this lapse will hinder us on the international stage, especially with the World Radiocommunication Conference taking place right now in Dubai.

I commend Representatives KUSTER and JOYCE for their bipartisan work on the House companion to this bill, H.R. 5677. This important bill helps advance America's wireless leadership by ensuring that 5G spectrum is deployed quickly so that we can further improve consumers' wireless service all around the Nation, especially in rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in a bipartisan manner so it can be sent shortly to the President's desk, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Penn-

sylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend representing the 13th District.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill will grant the FCC temporary authority to issue over 7,500 licenses that have been stalled while the spectrum auction authority has lapsed. To address this issue, I am proud to be the sponsor of the 5G SALE Act, which was unanimously reported out of committee.

It has now been more than a year since Auction 108 was conducted by the FCC for these 2.5 gigahertz band licenses. During the auction, more than \$400 million was raised by 63 bidders. Releasing these licenses will mean greater competition among providers and money funneled into our economy.

The 5G SALE Act would cut through bureaucratic red tape and help get more Americans connected to high-speed coverage than ever before. Especially in rural areas, where I represent, in Pennsylvania's south central and southwestern area, coverage can be scarce. Congress must work to ensure that students, patients, workers, and farmers all have access to 5G internet.

In places where seeing a medical specialist can mean a 2-hour drive, access to reliable 5G connection can be life-changing for a patient. These connections are invaluable also for our farmers, as they use precision farming to plant crops and harvest.

□ 1715

Access to the internet is vital for our students as they work to do their homework—their homework at home, not in the parking lot outside of a convenience store.

Recently, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology heard from Chair Rosenworcel that the FCC would devote the necessary resources and time to ensure that these licenses would be issued as quickly as possible once this legislation is enacted.

I am grateful for all the work that went into advancing this commonsense legislation to help connect more Americans than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation. Obviously, we would like to see spectrum authority in general be authorized, but this is important on its own.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, as the minority has said, we need more spectrum, not less, and we have to win the race for 5G.

We have seen, over time, as I have spoken with people across the country for years, it was like the United States was way ahead in 5G, but as time went by, then all of a sudden, we were just a little bit ahead or maybe we were even. If we are going to win this race, we have to have 5G out there. It is absolutely essential.

During COVID, some of the things that happened have already been mentioned—telehealth services, the business side, education.

For families to stay connected, it is absolutely essential that we have more broadband out there, not less.

We would like to keep our promise to those that won these auctions that these airways will be available to them.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2787.

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.

## PREEMIE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3226) to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3226

*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 “PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023”.*

### SEC. 2. RESEARCH RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DELIVERY AND THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND OUTCOMES OF PRETERM AND LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT INFANTS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3(e) of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–4f(e)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

(b) *TECHNICAL CORRECTION.*—Effective as if included in the enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–328), section 2 of such Act is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Section 2” and inserting “Section 3”.

### SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

Section 5(a) of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–328) is amended by striking “The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, may establish” and inserting “Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, shall establish”.

### SEC. 4. STUDY ON PRETERM BIRTHS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies shall—

(1) not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, convene a committee of experts in maternal health to study premature births in the United States; and

(2) upon completion of the study under paragraph (1)—

(A) approve by consensus a report on the results of such study;

(B) include in such report—

(i) an assessment of each of the topics listed in subsection (b);

(ii) the analysis required by subsection (c); and

(iii) the raw data used to develop such report; and

(C) not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, transmit such report to—

(i) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(ii) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(iii) the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(b) *ASSESSMENT TOPICS.*—The topics listed in this subsection are of each of the following:

(1) The financial costs of premature birth to society, including—

(A) an analysis of stays in neonatal intensive care units and the cost of such stays;

(B) long-term costs of stays in such units to society and the family involved post-discharge; and

(C) health care costs for families post-discharge from such units (such as medications, therapeutic services, co-pays visits and specialty equipment).

(2) The factors that impact pre-term birth rates.

(3) Opportunities for earlier detection of premature birth risk factors, including—

(A) opportunities to improve maternal and infant health; and

(B) opportunities for public health programs to provide support and resources for parents in-hospital, in non-hospital settings, and post-discharge.

(c) *ANALYSIS.*—The analysis required by this subsection is an analysis of—

(1) targeted research strategies to develop effective drugs, treatments, or interventions to bring at-risk pregnancies to term;

(2) State and other programs’ best practices with respect to reducing premature birth rates; and

(3) precision medicine and preventative care approaches starting early in the life course (including during pregnancy) with a focus on behavioral and biological influences on premature birth, child health, and the trajectory of such approaches into adulthood.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. 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 in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today firmly committed to the principle that every life is worth living. That starts with giving babies born prematurely a fighting chance at growing up and living their lives to the fullest.

In 2021, the preterm birth rate increased to 10.5 percent, which was the highest recorded rate since 2007. Last

year, 1 in 10 babies were born prematurely.

Premature babies have a higher risk of infant mortality, developmental delays, and chronic health conditions.

This is why I rise today in support of H.R. 3226, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023, led by Energy and Commerce Committee members Dr. BURGESS and Dr. Miller-Meeks, Health Subcommittee Ranking Member ESHOO, and Representative ROBIN KELLY.

The legislation would reauthorize programs that are critical to Federal research, education, and intervention activities to reduce preterm birth and infant mortality.

The bill would also authorize a study to identify best practices to help detect and prevent preterm births as well as better understand the factors that lead to such births.

This critical legislation will help to reduce preterm births and ensure that babies have effective treatments to give them the best start in life.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3226, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation sponsored by Representative ESHOO, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, plays a crucial role in improving the care and outcomes for premature babies and their families.

According to the March of Dimes, about 383,000 premature babies were born in the United States last year. These babies oftentimes have more health problems or need to stay in the hospital longer than full-term babies. Some premature babies also face long-term health effects like problems that affect the brain, lungs, hearing, or vision.

Reauthorization of the PREEMIE program will help us to better understand the cause of preterm birth and what more can be done to prevent preterm births.

In 2006, Congress passed the PREEMIE Act, which marked a significant milestone by pioneering a comprehensive public-private national agenda aimed at spurring innovative research initiatives.

In 2013 and then again in 2018, we reauthorized 5-year extensions to the program to continue our country’s commitment to address preterm birth through Federal research, promoting known interventions and successful community outreach programs.

With this legislation today, we will reauthorize key programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. These programs support research and programs on preterm birth, improved tracking of national data, and activities aimed at promoting healthy pregnancies and preventing preterm birth.