

1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act. I am very proud to have introduced this bill along with my bipartisan co-chairs of the 5G and Beyond Caucus.

This legislation will ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of innovation in this evolving frontier by playing a central role in setting international wireless standards in emerging technologies. This approach has dramatic ramifications for our global competitiveness, 5G deployment, and our national security.

The policy choices of today will have lasting effects on the global wireless technology development of tomorrow, especially as we compete against China.

We must take concrete, proactive steps to lower barriers to entry for U.S. companies and promote American competitiveness in this space for each subsequent generation of these innovative technologies.

I know there are times when we don't all agree in this House, but we have a very bipartisan agreement that the United States must be a leader in the development and deployment of cutting-edge technologies. This bill does exactly that, and I am glad that today we are getting this one over the finish line in a very bipartisan manner—or at least I think we are.

I thank my colleague, Representative TIM WALBERG, who I have loved working with on 5G and hope we will continue to; Representative KUSTER; and former Representative BILL JOHNSON for their work on this legislation and as co-chairs and being the leads on this.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1377.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in support H.R. 1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2023.

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Mr. Speaker, I thank the bipartisan sponsors of this bill for working to protect our national security and global competitiveness.

Our adversaries such as China are working diligently to gain an edge over the U.S. when it comes to wireless technology and deployment.

Let me be clear. Economic security is national security. Again, economic security is national security.

It is imperative that we maintain our lead in the wireless space specifically with 5G advancement. We must continue to be at the front line of innovation which means participating in international standard-setting organizations.

I was proud to support this legislation when it passed committee unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to support this act as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay my respects to Chairman WALBERG and

congratulate him on his new chairmanship. I will miss sitting beside him in Energy and Commerce. It has been a pleasure to work with him for the last 8 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would also be remiss if I did not mention that in the first year of this session, I had the opportunity to serve as vice chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. I thank Chairman LATTA for the wonderful job that he did and for his inclusion of me in all of our meetings and his leadership on this great subcommittee and on this great committee in Energy and Commerce.

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, let's pass H.R. 1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2023 and boldly lead the charge toward 6G and beyond.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, the Communications and Technology Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee has been very busy this past Congress making sure that we get broadband deployed across this country. This piece of legislation will help make sure that that happens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOPEZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1377.

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.

EXPEDITING FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT REVIEWS ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3293) to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3293

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 "Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.

(a) INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this

Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish an interagency strike force to ensure that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations.

(2) MEMBERS.—The strike force shall be composed of—

(A) the Assistant Secretary;

(B) the head of each Federal land management agency;

(C) a designee of the Secretary of Agriculture, other than the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(D) a designee of the Secretary of the Interior, other than the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) DUTIES.—The duties of the strike force shall include—

(A) conducting periodic calls between the members of the strike force to ensure that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations;

(B) establishing objective and reasonable goals for the review of requests for communications use authorizations; and

(C) monitoring, and facilitating the accountability of, each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, with respect to meeting such goals.

(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of the strike force in ensuring that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

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

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term "communications facility" has the meaning given the term "communications facility installation" in section 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

(4) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term "communications use" means the placement and operation of a communications facility.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The term "communications use authorization" means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or other authorization—

(A) provided by a Federal land management agency;

(B) to locate or modify a communications facility on covered land; and

(C) for the primary purpose of authorizing the occupancy and use of such land for communications use.

(6) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means—

(A) public lands; and

(B) National Forest System land.

(7) **FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “Federal land management agency” means each of the following:

- (A) The Bureau of Land Management.
- (B) The Forest Service.

(8) **NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.**—The term “National Forest System” has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(9) **ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT.**—The term “organizational unit” means—

(A) with respect to the Bureau of Land Management—

- (i) a State office;
- (ii) a regional office;
- (iii) a district office; or
- (iv) a field office; and

(B) with respect to the Forest Service—

- (i) a regional office;
- (ii) a management unit; or
- (iii) a ranger district office.

(10) **PUBLIC LANDS.**—The term “public lands” has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(11) **STRIKE FORCE.**—The term “strike force” means the interagency strike force established under subsection (a)(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) 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 include extraneous material 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 today in support of H.R. 3293, Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act. This legislation establishes an interagency strike force to help prioritize permitting reviews for deploying broadband on Federal lands.

Broadband has become an essential part of everyday life. As we have seen, we need broadband for work, to stay connected with loved ones, and even for healthcare and education. Too many Americans still lack access to broadband. Thus, Congress has provided billions of dollars to ensure that every American gets connected.

Deploying on Federal lands is a critical part of closing the digital divide. Many unserved communities are near Federal lands and thus broadband providers must traverse these lands to reach these unserved homes and businesses.

Unfortunately, deploying broadband on Federal lands can be burdensome, particularly when it comes to the permitting process. Providers have testified that this complicated process moves slowly, and they are left in the dark on the status of their applications.

As a result, unserved communities are left without the broadband they

need as providers wait for agencies to approve their permits.

We need to reform the broadband permitting process. Not only do we need to streamline how we review permits, we also need to ensure that agencies that manage Federal lands prioritize these reviews. H.R. 3293, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act, will help ensure this happens.

H.R. 3293 directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to create an interagency strike force that includes the head of each Federal land management agency to ensure that they are prioritizing the review of broadband permitting applications.

In addition to holding periodic calls, the strike force will establish goals for the review of the requests and monitor and hold each agency accountable for meeting those goals. This strike force is necessary to expedite the permitting process so that every American has access to broadband.

I thank the gentleman from South Carolina's Third District (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota's Second District (Ms. CRAIG) for their leadership on this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3293, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act which was introduced by Representatives DUNCAN and CRAIG.

As this year comes to a close and with an eye towards 2025, I am excited to see real progress in the year ahead on many of the broadband deployment efforts, including in the bipartisan infrastructure law.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission laid so much important groundwork over the past 2 years, notably creating accurate and reliable broadband availability maps, so that infrastructure dollars will go to communities where they truly are needed.

In the coming year, many projects funded under the \$42 billion BEAD program will begin to break ground and connect for the first time unserved and underserved communities to high-speed internet.

Communication providers are zeroing in on project areas and preparing plans at the most granular level. In the course of this work, providers will find that in many cases the most direct route to lay broadband infrastructure requires traversing lands owned and managed by the Federal Government.

In central Florida, we have a lot of Federal lands around Cape Canaveral and Avon Park Air Force Range. We have a lot of national parks in and around our area as well, so we know this well.

Earlier this Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee heard about delays and inefficiencies in the handling of permit applications that are pending at various agencies overseeing Federal lands.

While environmental and historic preservation protections will always be of the utmost importance to me, we should strive to ensure our agencies operate as efficiently as possible to dispense with applications to deploy communications infrastructure where no additional environmental or historic preservation due diligence is required.

This bill calls on the administrator of the NTIA to establish an interagency strike force that will improve collaboration between NTIA and the agencies and departments responsible for reviewing and improving communications use authorization applications.

This will help NTIA help bring relevant parties together to identify the obstacles and inefficiencies that have slowed progress in the past and collaborate on solutions to address these barriers, ultimately expediting the deployment of broadband infrastructure to the rural and remote areas most in need.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of Representatives DUNCAN and CRAIG on this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina's Third District (Mr. DUNCAN), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3293, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act.

I thank House leadership for allowing this legislation to come to the floor. I thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee on both sides of the aisle for supporting this legislation in committee and supporting it here today.

Mr. Speaker, in the 21st century, broadband internet access is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity. It connects our communities. It drives economic growth and allows our constituents to fully engage with the digital age. Yet, millions of Americans still lack access to reliable high-speed internet.

This digital divide is a barrier to opportunity, holding back businesses, hindering education, and limiting access to essential services. H.R. 3293 takes a crucial step towards bridging this divide and streamlining the process for deploying broadband infrastructure.

Currently, the review process for obtaining permits and authorizations can be lengthy and bureaucratic, causing significant delays in deployment. This bill establishes an interagency strike force to coordinate and expedite these reviews, ensuring that Federal agencies prioritize broadband expansion. Streamlining these Federal processes

will help get broadband deployed in the rural parts of America just like the Third District of South Carolina.

The benefits of H.R. 3293 are clear. Faster broadband deployment will create jobs, stimulate economic development, and improve the quality of life for countless Americans. Students will have access to online learning resources. Telehealth services will become more accessible, and rural communities will be better connected to the global economy.

H.R. 3293 is a commonsense solution that will help us achieve universal broadband access. It is a critical investment in our future, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3293, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act.

I thank the bipartisan sponsors for this bill in working to close the digital divide. There are over 7 million American homes and businesses that lack access to high-speed broadband, and it is often lengthy permitting processes that contribute to this digital divide.

In every industry ranging from energy to telecommunications, the permitting process gets in the way of investment and deployment and ends up hurting consumers the most.

There are so many benefits to communities having reliable internet access such as educational and job opportunities, expansion of small business operations, and simply allowing people and services to reach new populations and areas.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation ensures that broadband deployment on Federal lands gets reviewed and prioritized in a timely manner, while also holding the relevant agencies accountable, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1530

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, that was my last speaker on the bill. I am prepared to close if my friend, the gentleman from Florida, is.

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

First, I thank Representative DUNCAN for his leadership on the committee, especially in areas of energy. We worked on a lot of issues relating to nuclear energy, which is going to be a key part of the clean energy future that we all care deeply about, so I wish him well in his future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is simple. Once the environmental and historic preservation reviews are done, or where they are not required, we have to get these broadband dollars out the door.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier on the previous bills, the Communications and Technology Subcommittee of the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been moving legislation to make sure we get broadband deployed across this country. As the speakers have already mentioned, broadband is not something that is a luxury, but it is a necessity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the legislation today, 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 that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3293, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTISM COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT ACT OF 2024

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 7213) to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and reauthorize activities and programs relating to autism spectrum disorder, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2024” or the “Autism CARES Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES.

(a) EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES.—Section 409C(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “) shall, subject to the availability” and inserting the following: “), in consultation with relevant Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall—

“(A) subject to the availability”;

(2) by striking “basic and clinical research in fields including pathology” and inserting the following: “basic and clinical research—

“(i) in fields, such as pathology”;

(3) by striking “toxicology, and interventions” and inserting the following: “toxicology, psychiatry, psychology, developmental behavioral pediatrics, audiology, and gerontology; and

“(ii) on interventions”;

(4) by striking “disorder. Such research shall investigate” and inserting the following: “disorder; and

“(B) ensure that research referred to in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) investigates”;

(5) by striking “prevention, services across the lifespan, supports, intervention, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder” and inserting “prevention, services and supports across the lifespan, intervention, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder and co-occurring conditions”; and

(6) by striking “treatments.” and inserting the following: “treatments”;

“(ii) examines supports for caregivers; and

“(iii) reflects the entire population of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, including those individuals with co-occurring conditions and the full range of needs for supports and services, including such supports and services to ensure the safety, and promote the well-being, of such individuals.”.

(b) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Section 409C(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “including the fields of” and inserting “in fields such as”; and

(B) by striking “behavioral psychology, and clinical psychology” and inserting “behavioral psychology, clinical psychology, and gerontology”;

(2) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “five” and inserting “seven”; and

(3) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “period of not to exceed” and inserting “period not to exceed”.

(c) PUBLIC INPUT.—Section 409C(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) PUBLIC INPUT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall under subsection (a)(1) provide for means through which the public can obtain information on the existing and planned programs and activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to autism spectrum disorder and through which the Director can receive comments from the public regarding such programs and activities.

“(2) GUIDANCE.—The Director may provide guidance to centers under subsection (b)(1) on strategies, activities, and opportunities to promote engagement with, and solicit input from, individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their family members, guardians, advocates or authorized representatives, providers, or other appropriate individuals to inform the activities of the center. Such strategies, activities, and opportunities should consider including, as appropriate, individuals, family members, and caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorder who represent the entire population of individuals with autism spectrum disorder, including those individuals with co-occurring conditions and the full range of needs for supports and services, including such supports and services to ensure the safety, and promote the well-being, of such individuals, to inform the activities of the center.”.

(d) BUDGET ESTIMATE.—Section 409C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) BUDGET ESTIMATE.—For each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029, the Director shall prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to the strategic plan developed under section 399CC(b)(5) and updated under section 399CC(b)(6)(B), after reasonable opportunity for comment (but without change) by the Secretary and the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee established under section 399CC.”.

SEC. 3. PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM.

(a) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 399AA of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “an Indian tribe, or a tribal organization” and inserting “an Indian Tribe, or a Tribal organization”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “across the lifespan” before the period at the end;

(3) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “TRIBE; TRIBAL” and inserting “TRIBE; TRIBAL”;

(B) by striking “tribe” and inserting “Tribe”; and

(C) by striking “tribal” and inserting “Tribal”; and