

Process reform is not about political ideology or partisan rancor, rather, it is about ensuring that government continues to work for the people. I am hopeful that this legislation will reach the President's desk and result in a better, more efficient, more transparent Federal Communications Commission, the kind of regulator that the most innovative and dynamic sector in the world deserves.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 290, the FCC Process Reform Act of 2017.

I'm particularly proud of a bipartisan provision I first authored in the 112th Congress that I'm pleased is included in this legislation today. This provision would modify current FCC rules to allow three or more Commissioners to hold non-public collaborative discussions, as long as no agency action is taken.

Today, under the FCC's "Sunshine Rule," three Commissioners or more are prohibited from talking to each other outside of an official public meeting. The FCC oversees industries representing approximately one-sixth of the American economy. It must be able to collaborate freely and deliberate on our nation's most pressing communications issues, from enhancing universal service and public safety, to making more spectrum available for mobile broadband.

As Congress looks at ways to help modernize the FCC, this bipartisan, commonsense provision will help to promote greater discussion among the five FCC Commissioners and ensure they can benefit from each other's expertise and experience. Through greater collaboration, the FCC will be better positioned to respond to a fast-paced and rapidly growing telecommunications industry in the 21st century.

I thank Chairman WALDEN for including this provision in the bill the House has passed today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 290.

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.

ANTI-SPOOFING ACT OF 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 423) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 423

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 "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. SPOOFING PREVENTION.

(a) EXPANDING AND CLARIFYING PROHIBITION ON MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

(1) COMMUNICATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1)) is amended by striking "in connection with any telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service" and inserting "or any person outside the United States if the recipient is within the United States, in connection with any voice service or text messaging service".

(2) COVERAGE OF TEXT MESSAGES AND VOICE SERVICES.—Section 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service" and inserting "voice service or a text message sent using a text messaging service";

(B) in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking "telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service" and inserting "voice service or a text message sent using a text messaging service"; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) TEXT MESSAGE.—The term 'text message'—

"(i) means a message consisting of text, images, sounds, or other information that is transmitted to or from a device that is identified as the receiving or transmitting device by means of a 10-digit telephone number or N11 service code;

"(ii) includes a short message service (commonly referred to as 'SMS') message and a multimedia message service (commonly referred to as 'MMS') message; and

"(iii) does not include—

"(I) a real-time, two way voice or video communication; or

"(II) a message sent over an IP-enabled messaging service to another user of the same messaging service, except a message described in clause (ii).

"(D) TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE.—The term 'text messaging service' means a service that enables the transmission or receipt of a text message, including a service provided as part of or in connection with a voice service.

"(E) VOICE SERVICE.—The term 'voice service'—

"(i) means any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1); and

"(ii) includes transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine."

(3) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 227(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)) is amended in the heading by inserting "MISLEADING OR" before "INACCURATE".

(4) REGULATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 227(e)(3)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(3)(A)) is amended by striking "Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009, the Commission" and inserting "The Commission".

(B) DEADLINE.—The Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this subsection not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date on

which the Commission prescribes regulations under paragraph (4).

(b) CONSUMER EDUCATION MATERIALS ON HOW TO AVOID SCAMS THAT RELY UPON MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIALS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the Federal Trade Commission, shall develop consumer education materials that provide information about—

(A) ways for consumers to identify scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; and

(B) existing technologies, if any, that a consumer can use to protect against such scams and other fraudulent activity.

(2) CONTENTS.—In developing the consumer education materials under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) identify existing technologies, if any, that can help consumers guard themselves against scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, including—

(i) descriptions of how a consumer can use the technologies to protect against such scams and other fraudulent activity; and

(ii) details on how consumers can access and use the technologies; and

(B) provide other information that may help consumers identify and avoid scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(3) UPDATES.—The Commission shall ensure that the consumer education materials required under paragraph (1) are updated on a regular basis.

(4) WEBSITE.—The Commission shall include the consumer education materials developed under paragraph (1) on its website.

(c) GAO REPORT ON COMBATING THE FRAUDULENT PROVISION OF MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the actions the Commission and the Federal Trade Commission have taken to combat the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and the additional measures that could be taken to combat such activity.

(2) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall examine—

(A) trends in the types of scams that rely on misleading or inaccurate caller identification information;

(B) previous and current enforcement actions by the Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to combat the practices prohibited by section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1));

(C) current efforts by industry groups and other entities to develop technical standards to deter or prevent the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and how such standards may help combat the current and future provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; and

(D) whether there are additional actions the Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and Congress should take to combat the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the

study under paragraph (1), including any recommendations regarding combating the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to modify, limit, or otherwise affect any rule or order adopted by the Commission in connection with—

(1) the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-243; 105 Stat. 2394) or the amendments made by that Act; or

(2) the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 (15 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).

(e) **COMMISSION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. **BLACKBURN**) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. **MICHAEL F. DOYLE**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. **BLACKBURN**. 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 gentlewoman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mrs. **BLACKBURN**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017. Today we are considering a very worthy piece of legislation, which has been introduced in each of the last two Congresses by Vice Chairman **BARTON**, Vice Chairman **LANCE**, and Representative **MENG**. All of them have put a lot of hard work into this bill, and I thank each of them for their dedication in pursuing a much-needed update to the Truth in Caller ID Act.

Spoofing is the act of altering the number that will appear on the receiving end of the caller ID. It is a trick that has been around for more than a decade. Spoofing provides a false identity to bad actors and criminals who seek to harass and defraud our hard-working taxpayers, oftentimes through various scams.

Sometimes the scams are elaborate, and other times they are simple. But these schemes are all petty; and once carried out, they are criminal. Spoofing lets the bad guys disguise their identity and will often pose as official entities, such as credit card companies, hospitals, and government agencies to target their unsuspecting victims. These crooks regularly target seniors and use intimidation tactics to extract personal and financial information.

The FCC has the authority to levy penalties and criminal fines against individuals that use fake caller ID information for the purpose of defrauding or harming another. However, current law only covers traditional voice calls. While this was considered a good fix

when it was enacted in 2009, the Truth in Caller ID Act no longer sufficiently protects consumers. New communication methods and an evolving consumer trend towards text messaging have left the law with significant holes for the fraudsters to fly through and avoid prosecution.

H.R. 423 would extend and clarify provisions of the Truth in Caller ID Act to include text messages and Voice over Internet Protocol services and would also apply the penalties to violators outside of the United States.

The bill would also seek to make it more challenging for those using fake caller ID information. In the past, you needed to have advanced skills and expensive equipment in order to spoof. Nowadays, it isn't hard. All someone needs to have is a smartphone and access to any of the various apps on the market that can instantly generate a fake caller ID.

This is another classic case where technology has outpaced the laws that govern it. We will never be able to legislate ahead of technology advancement, nor should we try to do so. But when we find areas where legislation can help shield our consumers and hold the bad guys accountable, it is incumbent on us to act.

I believe that the legislation we are considering today is a good next step in our pursuit of stronger protection for our consumers. This bill will not prevent spoofing and it will not make our constituents invincible from the related scams and harassment, but what this bill does is important. By updating the law to more accurately reflect today's environment, we will be equipped to hold violators subject to the penalty of law.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. **MICHAEL F. DOYLE** of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act, introduced by Representative **MENG** as well as Representative **BARTON** of Texas and Representative **LANCE** of New Jersey.

Consumers should feel safe knowing that the caller ID information they see when they answer the phone is accurate. Unfortunately, fraudsters use misleading caller ID numbers every day to trick consumers into handing over sensitive information.

Americans, from young people to senior citizens, are misled by crooks using a fake caller identification into thinking they are being connected to a trusted institution. This practice known as spoofing contributes to the millions of identity theft cases in our country each year and so many other forms of fraud.

Under the law today, it is already illegal for scammers to use fake caller ID information for regular voice calls. This legislation expands that band to text messages and to calls coming in from overseas. That just makes sense.

It is a bipartisan bill. It passed last Congress on a vote of 382-5.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for consumers and strengthen spoofing protection. It is time for us to pass the Anti-Spoofing Act.

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

Mrs. **BLACKBURN**. Mr. Speaker, I include in the **RECORD** the committee report for this legislation from the last Congress.

H.R. 423, ANTI-SPOOFING ACT OF 2017

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Spoofing is a practice in which a phone number shown on a phone or caller identification device is deliberately falsified, often to portray an official entity such as a government agency or credit card company, typically with malicious intent. Spoofing is a commonly used tool for a number of illegal practices, including phishing for personal information and swatting—calling in a fictitious crime in progress in order to generate a police response. The original Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009 prohibits spoofing voice caller identification. However, as communications methods and consumer habits continue to evolve, so too do the attempts by third parties to fraudulently gain personal information for criminal use. Many Americans are now relying on text messaging to stay connected, and this method of communication has become a target for spoofing in much the same way voice calls have been.

H.R. 423 extends the provisions of the Truth in Caller ID Act to include text messaging as well as Voice over Internet Protocol services. The legislation, introduced by Rep. **Barton**, Rep. **Lance**, and Rep. **Meng**, also addresses the growth of services that allow users to knowingly transmit misleading or inaccurate caller identification information by adding a definition of “spoofing service” to the Truth in Caller ID Act.

In amending H.R. 423, the Committee significantly changed the definitions of “text message” and “text messaging service.” The changes are designed to exclude from these definitions those online messaging services that use traditional telephone numbers for the purpose of identifying a user's account, just as other online services may use an email address or username for a similar purpose. The excluded services do not use telephone numbers to interconnect with the public switched telephone network or enable communication with individuals who do not subscribe to the same messaging service. The Committee intends the Commission to devise its rules using the meanings set forth in the legislation. “Short message service” and “multimedia message service” should be narrowly interpreted consistent with current industry standards (see, e.g., ETSI, Technical Specification, 3GPP TS 23.040 version 12.2.0 Release 12, ETSI TS 123 040 v12.2.0 (Oct. 2014), available at www.etsi.org).

The Committee takes notice of the fact that the language set forth in the version of H.R. 423, as ordered reported, is identical to the text relating to the same subject contained in S. 253, the Communications Act Update Act of 2016, as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, on September 27, 2016. The House passed S. 253, as amended, by unanimous consent. The foregoing discussion should therefore serve as an explanation of that bill's provisions for purposes of legislative history.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section provides that the Act may be cited as the “Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017”.

Section 2. Spoofing prevention

This section amends the Communications Act to expand the Truth in Caller Act to include text messaging services, as well as communications from outside of the United States. This section defines the terms “text message,” “text messaging service,” and “voice service.”

This section also requires the Commission, in coordination with the Federal Trade Commission, to develop consumer education materials regarding caller ID scams and technologies that can help consumers protect themselves against fraudulent activity.

This section also requires a Government Accountability Office report on the actions taken by the Federal Communications Commission and FTC to combat caller ID fraud.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a new member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017, because it addresses the issue of call spoofing and the impact that these deceitful callers are having on Americans.

Every day, millions of Americans are hit with calls using a fraudulent caller ID profile and with impersonators on the other end of the line. These con artists are able to disguise their real number in an effort to convince unsuspecting victims that they are a representative from a government agency, financial company, healthcare system, or other organizations that may request information to contact someone. An example of a common call is someone saying they are calling from the IRS and are asking for personal information over the phone. This has got to stop.

Representatives MENG, BARTON, and LANCE have again introduced this legislation to prevent these criminals from further victimizing hardworking Americans.

We have a real opportunity to combat this growing tactic and protect those in our communities who are the most vulnerable.

I applaud the Energy and Commerce Committee for their continued effort to protect Americans from criminal behavior and in updating such important policy measures. Last Congress, this legislation passed the House with an overwhelming vote of 382-5 in support.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 423 because we have an opportunity to fix a growing problem in our country and to cut down on fraud.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from New York (Ms. MENG), the primary sponsor of the Anti-Spoofing Act.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of my bill, H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017.

I am honored to have authored this bill with Congressman BARTON and Congressman LANCE once again, and I thank Amy Murphy and Ryan Farrell of their respective staffs for working so closely with mine. I also thank the COMET Civic Association from my dis-

trict for first bringing this problem to my attention.

This legislation seeks to combat spoofing, which is when phone call recipients are tricked into answering the phone due to inaccurate caller ID information. Criminals have used this technique to scam thousands of Americans and steal millions of dollars. Recent spoofing attempts have included scam artists pretending to be sheriff's offices, hospitals, and even the IRS. The bill before us this afternoon expands spoofing protections to calls that originate outside of the country as well as text messages.

It is often stated that a measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable. Almost every day, I receive new reports of spoofing that harm the most vulnerable in my district, including immigrants, seniors, veterans, and those in need of help from law enforcement. That is why this legislation is endorsed by senior citizens, law enforcement, and consumer protection groups.

The Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017 is a bipartisan bill. It passed the House in both the 113th and 114th Congresses under suspension of the rules, and it is my sincere hope that this bill will continue to be noncontroversial and that we will do everything in our power to combat telephone scams against our constituents.

In closing, I thank Representatives BLACKBURN and DOYLE for their support this afternoon, as well as Energy and Commerce Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member PALLONE. Without their support, this legislation would not be on the floor.

I urge the Senate to quickly take up this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues in this Chamber to support it once again.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any other speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act. I am a proud sponsor of this with Congresswoman MENG and Congressman BARTON, and I commend them for their leadership on this issue.

Caller ID spoofing occurs when a scammer calls and attempts to disguise his or her identity by manipulating the recipient caller's caller ID display. The scammer may be posing as an IRS agent, a police officer, or a representative from another governmental agency. After tricking people in picking up the line, the criminal then attempts to entice the other person to giving up personal information.

To date, hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions, have been defrauded, including veterans, immigrants, and senior citizens. In Somerset County, New Jersey, a county which I represent here in the House,

scammers cloned the telephone number of the county sheriff's office and impersonated the sheriff's staff in an effort to steal residents' personal information.

This problem has gotten out of control. Millions of Americans continue to get ripped off by con artists and scammers who perpetuate this despicable crime.

Since Congress passed the Truth in Caller ID Act in 2009, new technologies have enabled these criminals to scam consumers with increased ease and efficiency.

This legislation is one step forward to ensure that governmental policies keep up with these criminals. This disgraceful practice must end, and this consumer protection legislation goes a long way toward accomplishing that critical goal.

The bill has been passed through the House twice before, as Congresswoman MENG has just said. And after collaboration with our colleagues in the Senate, we now have secured enough support to see that this commonsense consumer protection legislation will advance. I hope it advances in the 115th Congress as quickly as possible and I hope it reaches our new President's desk as quickly as possible.

□ 1630

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 423, the “Anti-Spoofing Act of 2017,” which amends the Communications Act of 1934, to make it unlawful to cause a caller identification service to knowingly transmit inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to: defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value.

Spoofing is a practice in which a phone number shown on a phone or caller identification device deliberately is falsified.

Spoofing is a commonly used tool for a number of illegal practices, including “phishing” for personal information and “swatting”—calling in a fictitious crime in progress in order to generate a police response.

The Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009 prohibits spoofing of voice caller identification information; however, as communications methods and consumer habits continue to evolve, so do the attempts by third parties to gain personal information for criminal use.

Many Americans now rely on text messaging to stay connected.

According to CTIA, in 2015, Americans sent over 156 billion text messages per month.

H.R. 423, the Anti-Spoofing Act, will extend the provisions of the Truth in Caller ID Act to include text messaging and text messaging services.

The legislation adds a definition of “spoofing service” to the statute, addressing the growth of services that allows a user to knowingly transmit misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

In addition, it extends the prohibitions to any person or service placing an international call to a recipient within the United States.

Additionally, H.R. 423 will revise the definitions of “caller identification information” and

"caller identification service" to include text messages sent using a text messaging service.

It defines "text message" as real-time messages consisting of text, images, sounds, or other information transmitted from or received by a device identified by a telephone number.

It also includes in the definition both, real-time and two-way voice or video communications, addressing the emerging law enforcement issue of "swatting" by which people can purposefully misdirect valuable, police efforts and resources.

This bill takes the right approach targeting behavior, while protecting innovations that are important to the digital economy.

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, I understand the vital need to safeguard against caller identification spoofing.

For example, women's abuse shelters and law enforcement officers working undercover have a need to protect their clients' identities.

This bill seeks to target those who have the intent to cause harm or commit a crime.

I support this legislation because it protects the consumer from criminal behavior, while protecting our fundamental right to privacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 423.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SECURING ACCESS TO NETWORKS IN DISASTERS ACT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 588) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study on network resiliency during times of emergency, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 588

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 "Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act".

SEC. 2. STUDY ON NETWORK RESILIENCY.

Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the Commission's website, a study on the public safety benefits and technical feasibility and cost of—

(1) making telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points, and other communications technologies operating on unlicensed spectrum, available to the general public for access to 9-1-1 services, without requiring any login credentials, during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable;

(2) the provision by non-telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points of public access to 9-1-1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable; and

(3) other alternative means of providing the public with access to 9-1-1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable.

SEC. 3. ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS DURING FEDERALLY DECLARED EMERGENCIES.

Section 427(a)(1)(A) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189e(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking "telecommunications service" and inserting "wireline or mobile telephone service, Internet access service, radio or television broadcasting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite service".

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

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

(2) the term "mobile service" means commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332)) or commercial mobile data service (as defined in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401));

(3) the term "WiFi access point" means wireless Internet access using the standard designated as 802.11 or any variant thereof; and

(4) the term "times of emergency" means either an emergency as defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), or an emergency as declared by the governor of a State or territory of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. 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 H.R. 588.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 588 includes a provision to facilitate the repair of communications infrastructure in the wake of a disaster.

We know how critical communications can be following a disaster for first responders and everyone that is impacted. I commend the bill's sponsor for pursuing this legislation, and I thank the Energy and Commerce Committee for working with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on this language.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) be permitted to control the remainder of the time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 588, the Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act, or the SANDY Act, introduced by Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE. This bill is all about making sure that the communication networks that so many Americans rely on are as resilient as they can be.

Disaster is going to strike and networks are going to go down. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that when those networks go down, the network operators have the resources they need to get things back online as quickly as possible.

The bill also requires the FCC to conduct a study on the future of network resiliency, and how new and existing technologies can be used during our times of need to communicate with loved ones or call for help.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that passed 389-2 in the last Congress, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

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

When disaster strikes, there is a lot of hard work to be done, and every second counts. First responders go into action for those that need help. Relief organizations and volunteers rush in to begin the process of cleaning up. Utilities and service providers must be on the ground repairing damaged infrastructure.

All of these mission-critical tasks require a functioning communications network. People turn to the network for potentially lifesaving information and rely on its functionality to reach emergency services.

We are here today to consider this bill. Representative PALLONE—I want to give some credit to him—has been a champion of following the eye-opening effects of Superstorm Sandy. He has worked tirelessly on this legislation since October 2012.

In total, the Sandy storm resulted in roughly \$74 billion in damages in the U.S. alone. Sometimes we forget the magnitude of that storm. Damage to power and communications infrastructure, it knocked out about 25 percent of the cell sites in its path. In some of the hardest-hit counties, 50 percent of those sites were down.

When the networks go down, public safety communications and emergency response services are threatened. In order for the networks to get back up and running, telecommunications providers need access to critical resources and permission to enter the disaster area.