

opioid abuse and the steep increase in the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome or NAS.

NAS occurs in newborns who were exposed to opiates while in their mother's womb and is associated with negative health outcomes such as preterm births, low birthweight, and respiratory distress. A recent study found the incidence of NAS quadrupled between 2004 and 2013. This legislation would respond to that dramatic increase by requiring HHS to create a comprehensive national strategy to address prenatal opioid abuse and NAS. That strategy would include a coordinated research and programming strategy to address the public health challenge of NAS and prenatal opioid abuse as well as develop a comprehensive set of recommendations for preventing and treating prenatal opioid use disorders and NAS.

I want to thank Rep. KATHERINE CLARK for her leadership on this critical and timely issue. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 799.

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.

#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PROCESS REFORM ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2583) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2583

*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 "Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. FCC PROCESS REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 13. TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY.

"(a) INITIAL RULEMAKING AND INQUIRY.—

"(1) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015, the Commission shall complete a rulemaking proceeding and adopt procedural changes to its rules to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR RULEMAKING.—The rules adopted under paragraph (1) shall—

"(A) set minimum comment periods for comment and reply comment, subject to a determination by the Commission that good cause exists for departing from such minimum comment periods, for—

"(i) significant regulatory actions, as defined in Executive Order No. 12866; and

"(ii) all other rulemaking proceedings;

"(B) establish policies concerning the submission of extensive new comments, data, or reports towards the end of the comment period;

"(C) establish policies regarding treatment of comments, ex parte communications, and data or reports (including statistical reports and reports to Congress) submitted after the comment period to ensure that the public has adequate notice of and opportunity to respond to such submissions before the Commission relies on such submissions in any order, decision, report, or action;

"(D) establish procedures for, not later than 14 days after the end of each quarter of a calendar year (or more frequently, as the Commission considers appropriate), publishing on the Internet website of the Commission and submitting to Congress a report that contains—

"(i) the status of open rulemaking proceedings and proposed orders, decisions, reports, or actions on circulation for review by the Commissioners, including which Commissioners have not cast a vote on an order, decision, report, or action that has been on circulation for more than 60 days;

"(ii) for the petitions, applications, complaints, and other requests for action by the Commission that were pending at the Commission on the last day of such quarter (or more frequent period, as the case may be)—

"(I) the number of such requests, broken down by the bureau primarily responsible for action and, for each bureau, the type of request (such as a petition, application, or complaint); and

"(II) information regarding the amount of time for which such requests have been pending, broken down as described in subclause (I); and

"(iii) a list of the congressional investigations of the Commission that were pending on the last day of such quarter (or more frequent period, as the case may be) and the cost of such investigations, individually and in the aggregate;

"(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for—

"(i) in the case of a petition for a declaratory ruling under section 1.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, issuing a public notice of such petition;

"(ii) in the case of a petition for rulemaking under section 1.401 of such title, issuing a public notice of such petition; and

"(iii) in the case of a petition for reconsideration under section 1.106 or 1.429 of such title or an application for review under section 1.115 of such title, issuing a public notice of a decision on the petition or application by the Commission or under delegated authority (as the case may be);

"(F) establish guidelines (relative to the date of filing) for the disposition of petitions filed under section 1.2 of such title;

"(G) establish procedures for the inclusion of the specific language of the proposed rule or the proposed amendment of an existing rule in a notice of proposed rulemaking; and

"(H) require notices of proposed rulemaking and orders adopting a rule or amending an existing rule that—

"(i) create (or propose to create) a program activity to contain performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity; and

"(ii) substantially change (or propose to substantially change) a program activity to contain—

"(I) performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed); or

"(II) a finding that existing performance measures will effectively evaluate the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed).

"(3) INQUIRY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to seek public comment on whether and how the Commission should—

"(A) establish procedures for allowing a bipartisan majority of Commissioners to place an order, decision, report, or action on the agenda of an open meeting;

"(B) establish procedures for informing all Commissioners of a reasonable number of options available to the Commission for resolving a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding;

"(C) establish procedures for ensuring that all Commissioners have adequate time, prior to being required to decide a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding (including at a meeting held pursuant to section 5(d)), to review the proposed Commission decision document, including the specific language of any proposed rule or any proposed amendment of an existing rule;

"(D) establish procedures for publishing the text of agenda items to be voted on at an open meeting in advance of such meeting so that the public has the opportunity to read the text before a vote is taken;

"(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for disposition of applications for a license under section 1.913 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations;

"(F) assign resources needed in order to meet the deadlines described in subparagraph (E), including whether the Commission's ability to meet such deadlines would be enhanced by assessing a fee from applicants for such a license; and

"(G) publish each order, decision, report, or action not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of such order, decision, report, or action.

"(4) DATA FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Commission shall develop a performance measure or proposed performance measure required by this subsection to rely, where possible, on data already collected by the Commission.

"(5) GAO AUDIT.—Not less frequently than every 6 months, the Comptroller General of the United States shall audit the cost estimates provided by the Commission under paragraph (2)(D)(iii) during the preceding 6-month period.

"(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—On the date that is 5 years after the completion of the rulemaking proceeding under subsection (a)(1), and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall initiate a new rulemaking proceeding to continue to consider such procedural changes to its rules as may be in the public interest to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

"(c) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 552b of title 5, United States Code, a bipartisan majority of Commissioners may hold a meeting that is closed to the public to discuss official business if—

"(A) a vote or any other agency action is not taken at such meeting;

"(B) each person present at such meeting is a Commissioner, an employee of the Commission, a member of a joint board or conference established under section 410, or a person on the staff of such a joint board or conference or of a member of such a joint board or conference; and

"(C) an attorney from the Office of General Counsel of the Commission is present at such meeting.

"(2) DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Not later than 2 business days after the conclusion of a meeting held under paragraph (1), the Commission

shall publish a disclosure of such meeting, including—

“(A) a list of the persons who attended such meeting; and

“(B) a summary of the matters discussed at such meeting, except for such matters as the Commission determines may be withheld under section 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) PRESERVATION OF OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY ACTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the applicability of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, with respect to a meeting of Commissioners other than that described in paragraph (1).

“(d) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION ON COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.—The Commission shall provide direct access from the homepage of its website to—

“(1) detailed information regarding—

“(A) the budget of the Commission for the current fiscal year;

“(B) the appropriations for the Commission for such fiscal year; and

“(C) the total number of full-time equivalent employees of the Commission; and

“(2) the performance plan most recently made available by the Commission under section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code.

“(e) INTERNET PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN FCC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The chairman of the Commission shall—

“(1) publish on the Internet website of the Commission any policies or procedures of the Commission that—

“(A) are established by the chairman; and

“(B) relate to the functioning of the Commission or the handling of the agenda of the Commission; and

“(2) update such publication not later than 48 hours after the chairman makes changes to any such policies or procedures.

“(f) FEDERAL REGISTER PUBLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any document adopted by the Commission that the Commission is required, under any provision of law, to publish in the Federal Register, the Commission shall, not later than the date described in paragraph (2), complete all Commission actions necessary for such document to be so published.

“(2) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this paragraph is the earlier of—

“(A) the day that is 45 days after the date of the release of the document; or

“(B) the day by which such actions must be completed to comply with any deadline under any other provision of law.

“(3) NO EFFECT ON DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION IN OTHER FORM.—In the case of a deadline that does not specify that the form of publication is publication in the Federal Register, the Commission may comply with such deadline by publishing the document in another form. Such other form of publication does not relieve the Commission of any Federal Register publication requirement applicable to such document, including the requirement of paragraph (1).

“(g) CONSUMER COMPLAINT DATABASE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating and processing consumer complaints, the Commission shall present information about such complaints in a publicly available, searchable database on its website that—

“(A) facilitates easy use by consumers; and

“(B) to the extent practicable, is sortable and accessible by—

“(i) the date of the filing of the complaint;

“(ii) the topic of the complaint;

“(iii) the party complained of; and

“(iv) other elements that the Commission considers in the public interest.

“(2) DUPLICATIVE COMPLAINTS.—In the case of multiple complaints arising from the same alleged misconduct, the Commission shall be required to include only information

concerning one such complaint in the database described in paragraph (1).

“(h) FORM OF PUBLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In complying with a requirement of this section to publish a document, the Commission shall publish such document on its website, in addition to publishing such document in any other form that the Commission is required to use or is permitted to and chooses to use.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The Commission shall by rule establish procedures for redacting documents required to be published by this section so that the published versions of such documents do not contain—

“(A) information the publication of which would be detrimental to national security, homeland security, law enforcement, or public safety; or

“(B) information that is proprietary or confidential.

“(i) TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO PERFORMANCE IN MEETING FOIA REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall take additional steps to inform the public about its performance and efficiency in meeting the disclosure and other requirements of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), including by doing the following:

“(1) Publishing on the Commission's website the Commission's logs for tracking, responding to, and managing requests submitted under such section, including the Commission's fee estimates, fee categories, and fee request determinations.

“(2) Releasing to the public all decisions made by the Commission (including decisions made by the Commission's Bureaus and Offices) granting or denying requests filed under such section, including any such decisions pertaining to the estimate and application of fees assessed under such section.

“(3) Publishing on the Commission's website electronic copies of documents released under such section.

“(4) Presenting information about the Commission's handling of requests under such section in the Commission's annual budget estimates submitted to Congress and the Commission's annual performance and financial reports. Such information shall include the number of requests under such section the Commission received in the most recent fiscal year, the number of such requests granted and denied, a comparison of the Commission's processing of such requests over at least the previous 3 fiscal years, and a comparison of the Commission's results with the most recent average for the United States Government as published on [www.foia.gov](http://www.foia.gov).

“(j) PROMPT RELEASE OF STATISTICAL REPORTS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 15th of each year, the Commission shall identify, catalog, and publish an anticipated release schedule for all statistical reports and reports to Congress that are regularly or intermittently released by the Commission and will be released during such year.

“(k) ANNUAL SCORECARD REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 1-year period beginning on January 1st of each year, the Commission shall prepare a report on the performance of the Commission in conducting its proceedings and meeting the deadlines established under subsection (a)(2)(E) and the guidelines established under subsection (a)(2)(F).

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall contain detailed statistics on such performance, including, with respect to each Bureau of the Commission—

“(A) with respect to each type of filing specified in subsection (a)(2)(E) or (a)(2)(F)—

“(i) the number of filings that were pending on the last day of the period covered by such report;

“(ii) the number of filings described in clause (i) for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was not met and the average length of time such filings have been pending; and

“(iii) for filings that were resolved during such period, the average time between initiation and resolution and the percentage for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was met;

“(B) with respect to proceedings before an administrative law judge—

“(i) the number of such proceedings completed during such period; and

“(ii) the number of such proceedings pending on the last day of such period; and

“(C) the number of independent studies or analyses published by the Commission during such period.

“(3) PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall publish and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate each report required by paragraph (1) not later than the date that is 30 days after the last day of the period covered by such report.

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AMENDMENT.—The term ‘amendment’ includes, when used with respect to an existing rule, the deletion of such rule.

“(2) BIPARTISAN MAJORITY.—The term ‘bipartisan majority’ means, when used with respect to a group of Commissioners, that such group—

“(A) is a group of 3 or more Commissioners; and

“(B) includes, for each political party of which any Commissioner is a member, at least 1 Commissioner who is a member of such political party, and, if any Commissioner has no political party affiliation, at least one unaffiliated Commissioner.

“(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURE.—The term ‘performance measure’ means an objective and quantifiable outcome measure or output measure (as such terms are defined in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code).

“(4) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term ‘program activity’ has the meaning given such term in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, except that such term also includes any annual collection or distribution or related series of collections or distributions by the Commission of an amount that is greater than or equal to \$100,000,000.

“(5) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘agency action’, ‘ex parte communication’, and ‘rule’ have the meanings given such terms in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES AND IMPLEMENTING RULES.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Subsection (c) of section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall apply beginning on the first date on which all of the procedural changes to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission required by subsection (a)(1) of such section have taken effect.

(B) REPORT RELEASE SCHEDULES.—Subsection (j) of such section 13 shall apply with respect to 2016 and any year thereafter.

(C) ANNUAL SCORECARD REPORTS.—Subsection (k) of such section 13 shall apply with respect to 2015 and any year thereafter.

(D) INTERNET PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN FCC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—Subsection (e) of such section 13 shall apply beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RULES.—Except as otherwise provided in such section 13, the Federal Communications Commission shall promulgate any rules necessary to carry out such section not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

### SEC. 3. CATEGORIZATION OF TCPA INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS IN QUARTERLY REPORT.

In compiling its quarterly report with respect to informal consumer inquiries and complaints, the Federal Communications Commission may not categorize an inquiry or complaint with respect to section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) as being a wireline inquiry or complaint or a wireless inquiry or complaint unless the party whose conduct is the subject of the inquiry or complaint is a wireline carrier or a wireless carrier, respectively.

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

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall relieve the Federal Communications Commission from any obligations under title 5, United States Code, except where otherwise expressly provided.

### SEC. 5. APPLICATION OF ANTIDEFICIENCY ACT TO UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM.

Section 302 of Public Law 108-494 (118 Stat. 3998) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

### SEC. 6. REPORT ON IMPROVING SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN FCC PROCEEDINGS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) actions that the Commission will take to improve the participation of small businesses in the proceedings of the Commission; and

(2) recommendations for any legislation that the Commission considers appropriate to improve such participation.

### SEC. 7. EXCLUSION FROM PAYGO SCORECARDS.

(a) STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN. 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 into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today marks the third time in 4 years that a variation of the FCC Process Reform Act has come to the floor for a vote. This is a sign of how seriously in need of reform the FCC's pro-

cedures are and how seriously I, and the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, take the responsibility of helping put these reforms in place.

This bill is the product of a multiyear, bipartisan legislative process, bringing us to a place where we can at least begin to create a framework for more transparent and predictable rulemakings at the Federal Communications Commission.

There are few other industries that have shown such high levels of innovation and investment as the communications and technology sector. Think of the developments in smartphones alone over the past few years. Mr. Speaker. The only way to guarantee that this continues is to make sure that the agency that regulates the industry is accountable and transparent so that the regulatory tangles do not impede the steady march of new and exciting innovations and offerings.

The Subcommittee on Communications and Technology has spent a great deal of time on agency reform. In fact, tomorrow we will have the entire FCC before our committee once again. We have come to a consensus on how we can best improve the processes at the Federal Communications Commission without tying the agency's hands unnecessarily. It has been a focus of our work.

Our bipartisan compromise requires that the FCC undertake a rulemaking to adopt minimum time periods for comments and to adopt rules that prevent the introduction of large amounts of data—we call those data dumps, where enormous amounts of information come in at the last minute and nobody has a chance to understand what is in it or comment effectively on it, sometimes even catching commissioners by surprise—at the very end of a comment period.

The new Commission rules must put into place specific deadlines and timeframes for agency decisions or action on different types of filings before the agency. I know all too well what those deadlines and delays can be. My wife and I were broadcasters for more than two decades. We actually had applications sit at the FCC for nearly 10 years without any action. Finally, they were acted upon, and we were given 30 days to implement them. This isn't acceptable. There must be predictability and certainty for those who rely on the FCC to make decisions central to their businesses.

In addition to the rulemaking, the FCC must also conduct an inquiry into more complex issues, giving them flexibility in deciding whether and how to implement the reforms. We aren't looking to, again, hamstring this agency. We simply are providing them with goals and allowing them to determine the best way to achieve them. That is our job as the oversight committee over an agency.

Process reform is not about the actions of one party and it is not about

the actions of one chairman. This is about putting rules into place that will carry over from one administration to the next, one party to the next, one chairman to the next, creating consistency and certainty for the many that are subject to the Commission's rules. I believe there must be some kind of accountability for our independent agencies and the decisions that they make. After all, it is the public's business that they are conducting.

While there is still much work needed to be done on reforming the procedures at this sometimes broken agency, this bill represents a vital first step in that process. The communications industry and, more importantly, the American people, deserve a transparent and accountable Federal agency, no matter who is in charge.

For the second consecutive Congress, I am proud to bring this bipartisan work to the House floor. I thank my Democratic colleague, Ranking Member PALLONE, who I know will speak on this bill; Ranking Member ESHOO, who has been a terrific partner as we have worked on this; Representatives MATSUI, CLARKE, and LOEBACK for their contributions to this bill; and staff on both sides of the aisle, David Redl, Grace Koh, Kelsey Guyselman, Gene Fullano, David Goldman, Lori Maarbjerg, and David Grossman, for their hard work. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, 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 H.R. 2583, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015.

The FCC has a role in regulating industries that make up one-sixth of our economy and whose services have been essential to consumers, and it is important that the FCC functions in a fast, efficient, and transparent way.

The FCC Chairman has made process reform a priority of his tenure, and he has made great strides in improving how the FCC functions. But it is the role of Congress to make adjustments like we are doing today. I believe that the final text of the bill we are considering today will achieve that goal, and I urge all Members to support it.

Not all of the issues in the FCC Process Reform Act are new. In fact, the base of the bill being considered here today is very similar to the bill that passed the House under suspension by voice vote last Congress. It requires the FCC to adopt procedural rule changes to maximize public participation and to look into other potential process changes, including whether to establish deadlines for application processing. It also includes the provisions of the FCC Collaboration Act, an issue championed by Representative ESHOO, which will allow commissioners to freely discuss FCC issues with sufficient safeguards to protect against abuse.

Democrats offered additional suggestions earlier this year when the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology considered this and other bills aimed at FCC process reform. The ideas of subcommittee members CLARKE, LOEBSACK, and MATSUI furthered our goal to help make the FCC fast, efficient, and transparent.

The simple suggestions were to, one, require the FCC to provide quarterly reports on pending items with the agency to ensure accountability and timely responses; two, require, the FCC to coordinate with the Small Business Administration to improve small-business participation in FCC proceedings; and, third, require the FCC Chairman to publicly post the agency's internal policies and procedures for greater transparency.

Although we could not agree on the policies offered by the Republicans and dissented from the version of the bill that was favorably reported from the Energy and Commerce Committee in June, we worked in a bipartisan manner to craft the language that we take up today. This version of the bill takes the bipartisan language from last Congress and includes most of the Democratic suggestions that improve the bill.

I appreciate Chairman UPTON and Chairman WALDEN's willingness to listen to our concerns and work with us to achieve a bipartisan result. It is a stronger bill because of it.

I also want to thank Communications and Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member ANNA ESHOO for her leadership on these issues, as well as Representatives CLARKE, LOEBSACK, and MATSUI, for their thoughtful considerations. I look forward to continuing to work with our Republican and Democratic colleagues in the Senate to help this bill become law. Again, I urge its passage.

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

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

I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey and his staff for the great work on this legislation. I also meant to thank Mr. KINZINGER from Illinois as well, who has been very active on our subcommittee. He has done great work on this measure and some of its very important provisions. I left him out earlier today. I want to thank him as well. I also thank the staff and my colleagues. I urge passage in the House.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, I think this is a fine piece of work. I think it will result in the Federal Communications Commission being even better and more transparent as it conducts the public's business. I look forward to this bill

moving on across the Chamber and to the Senate where, hopefully, this year they will take it up. So I ask for its approval.

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2583, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2015, a bipartisan bill aimed at giving the FCC flexibility while promoting openness, transparency and accountability.

In the 113th Congress, the House of Representatives considered and passed similar legislation by voice vote. The bill before us adds to the previously included reforms by including three legislative proposals offered during the Energy & Commerce Committee's debate.

First, a proposal offered by Rep. CLARKE would require the FCC to report quarterly to Congress and to post, on its website, data on the total number of decisions pending, categorized by bureau, the type of request, the length of time pending, as well as a list of pending Congressional investigations and their costs to the agency.

Second, a proposal by Rep. LOEBSACK would require the Chairman to post the Commission's internal procedures on the FCC website and update the website when the Chairman makes any changes.

Third, the underlying bill includes a proposal offered by Rep. MATSUI which would require the FCC to coordinate with the Small Business Administration and issue recommendations to improve small business participation in FCC proceedings.

Collectively the proposals by Reps. CLARKE, LOEBSACK and MATSUI would modernize and enhance transparency at the FCC without jeopardizing regulatory certainty or opening the Commission to legal challenges on every agency action.

I'm also pleased that the bill incorporates the FCC Collaboration Act of 2015, a bipartisan bill I introduced earlier this year with Reps. SHIMKUS and DOYLE. For years, current and former FCC Commissioners have called on Congress to pass 'sunshine reform,' so that three or more Commissioners can hold non-public collaborative discussions, as long as no agency action is taken. While I remain disappointed that this provision will not take effect immediately upon enactment, I've concluded that any further delay in implementation is the unnecessary delay of a much needed reform.

I thank Chairman WALDEN for working with me and my staff to put forward a bipartisan bill and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2583.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2583, 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.

## SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2015

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2262) to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS; REFERENCES.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the "U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; references.

### TITLE I—SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. International launch competitiveness.

Sec. 103. Indemnification for space flight participants.

Sec. 104. Launch license flexibility.

Sec. 105. Licensing report.

Sec. 106. Federal jurisdiction.

Sec. 107. Cross waivers.

Sec. 108. Space authority.

Sec. 109. Orbital traffic management.

Sec. 110. Space surveillance and situational awareness data.

Sec. 111. Consensus standards and extension of certain safety regulation requirements.

Sec. 112. Government astronauts.

Sec. 113. Streamline commercial space launch activities.

Sec. 114. Operation and utilization of the ISS.

Sec. 115. State commercial launch facilities.

Sec. 116. Space support vehicles study.

Sec. 117. Space launch system update.

### TITLE II—COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING

Sec. 201. Annual reports.

Sec. 202. Statutory update report.

### TITLE III—OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE

Sec. 301. Renaming of office of space commercialization.

Sec. 302. Functions of the office of space commerce.

### TITLE IV—SPACE RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Title 51 amendment.

Sec. 403. Disclaimer of extraterritorial sovereignty.

(c) *REFERENCES TO TITLE 51, UNITED STATES CODE*.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 51, United States Code.

### TITLE I—SPURRING PRIVATE AEROSPACE COMPETITIVENESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#### SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Spurring Private Aerospace Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship Act of 2015" or "SPACE Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 102. INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH COMPETITIVENESS.

(a) *SENSE OF CONGRESS*.—It is the sense of Congress that it is in the public interest to update the methodology used to calculate the maximum probable loss from claims under section