

But in the meantime, can't we just save lives? Can't we just pass something that gives certainty to the telecommunications providers that when they get that law enforcement call, they have to provide that data of simply the location when everybody agrees that somebody's life is in the balance?

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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. 4889, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SARBANES. 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.

#### KARI'S LAW ACT OF 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4167) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4167

*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 "Kari's Law Act of 2016".

#### SEC. 2. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 721. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.

"(a) SYSTEM MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE, AND LEASE.—A person engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing, selling, or leasing multi-line telephone systems may not manufacture or import for use in the United States, or sell or lease or offer to sell or lease in the United States, a multi-line telephone system, unless such system is pre-configured such that, when properly installed in accordance with subsection (b), a user may directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station equipped with dialing facilities, without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-access code such as the digit '9', regardless of whether the user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for other calls.

"(b) SYSTEM INSTALLATION, MANAGEMENT, AND OPERATION.—A person engaged in the business of installing, managing, or operating multi-line telephone systems may not

install, manage, or operate for use in the United States such a system, unless such system is configured such that a user may directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station equipped with dialing facilities, without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-access code such as the digit '9', regardless of whether the user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for other calls.

"(c) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—A person engaged in the business of installing, managing, or operating multi-line telephone systems shall, in installing, managing, or operating such a system for use in the United States, configure the system to provide a notification to a central location at the facility where the system is installed or to another person or organization regardless of location, if the system is able to be configured to provide the notification without an improvement to the hardware or software of the system.

"(d) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section is intended to alter the authority of State commissions or other State or local agencies with jurisdiction over emergency communications, if the exercise of such authority is not inconsistent with this Act.

"(e) ENFORCEMENT.—This section shall be enforced under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the extent that such section provides for the punishment of a fine.

"(f) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'multi-line telephone system' has the meaning given such term in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471)."

#### (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), section 721 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall apply beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) or (c) of such section 721 shall not apply to a multi-line telephone system that was installed before the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act if such system is not able to be configured to meet the requirement of such subsection (b) or (c), respectively, without an improvement to the hardware or software of the system.

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 materials in 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.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4167, the Kari's Law Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, when I first heard of the tragic story of Kari Hunt, I was in disbelief. In his testimony before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Kari's father, Hank, shared with us the way that his daughter

was killed—stabbed by her estranged husband in a Texas hotel room while their children were in the room.

While that story is obviously horrifying enough, especially as a parent, my true shock came from the next part of the story. Kari's 9-year-old daughter, doing as she had been taught from an early age, had repeatedly tried to dial 911 from the hotel phone to get emergency help. Repeatedly her little fingers pushed the buttons 9-1-1, but because the phone required another 9 to get an outside line, she was never able to reach the emergency assistance her mother so desperately needed and she so desperately tried to access.

What her grandfather, Hank Hunt, told me next will stay with me forever. He said that as he sat with his granddaughter in the lobby of the police department just hours after the death of his daughter, his granddaughter looked at him and said: "I tried 4 times, Papa, but it didn't work." "I tried 4 times, Papa, but it didn't work."

Through this tragedy we learned the difficult truth that many multiline telephone systems, like the kinds often found in hotels and offices and universities, require that users dial an additional digit to use an outside line, even when they are trying to call 911.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply unacceptable. In the heat of an emergency, every person in America deserves the peace of mind to know that on any phone 911 actually means 911, period.

We teach our children from a very young age what to do in an emergency: dial 911. We all hope that they will never need to use that knowledge, but we want them to know what to do. I don't know too many parents who also teach their kids to think about dialing 9 or 8 or some other number to get an outside line.

H.R. 4167, known as Kari's Law, seeks to remedy this problem. The legislation requires multiline telephone systems to be configured so that dialing 911 directly connects to public safety. In addition, the law requires that a central point of contact for each system be notified when someone calls for emergency assistance, a provision intended to help emergency responders access buildings and actually locate the emergency caller.

Now, these fixes are simple changes to the system in most cases, costing little, if any, money, and taking very little time, but apparently without a legal requirement, there is no way to guarantee that every MLTS will be configured for dialing 911 directly. Some businesses, including many hotels, have taken steps to fix this problem already, and I applaud them for doing so voluntarily, but there needs to be consistency across our great land, Mr. Speaker. If you are a traveler staying in a hotel, you shouldn't have to wonder during an emergency whether you are in one of the States or counties that have adopted Kari's Law when the time comes for emergency help. We need a Federal law to provide certainty

and protect emergency callers when they dial 911.

I would like to thank Representative LOUIE GOHMERT from Texas. Mr. GOHMERT brought this issue to our attention. He is the sponsor of Kari's Law, and his staff has done a terrific job working with us on this legislation.

I would also like to thank my colleague, Ranking Member ESHOO, and her staff for working closely with us to make this bill an even better one.

Reflecting the way that these systems work and making sure the requirements are strong and effective, I would also like to thank Hank Hunt for bringing this issue to our attention, for pushing for change in the face of his family's tragedy, and for coming to Washington, D.C., to share his story.

I will finish my remarks with something else that Hank said before our subcommittee: "The inspiration for Kari's Law was a 9-year-old little girl that depended on her instruction from adults on how to handle an emergency, and those adults let her down."

Mr. Speaker, let's not let her down or any other child again. I urge my colleagues to support Kari's Law, and in doing so, we can take one step forward in ensuring that anyone, regardless of their age, who dials 911 will receive the emergency assistance they need.

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

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

I rise in general support of H.R. 4167. I agree that it is important to make sure that consumers using multiline telephone systems, or MLTSs, can directly dial 911 without having to dial additional digits first. We are talking about the multiline phone systems that we use in large office buildings and hotels. Many of these systems require consumers to dial an extra 9 to get an outside line. Most of us know that, but too many people do not realize this applies to 911 also. If you don't dial 9 first, you can't reach emergency services.

Such a requirement led to a tragedy in Texas several years ago. Kari Dunn was killed while her 9-year-old daughter tried to call for help. She did what she was told to do in an emergency—dial 911—but because the system she was using required her to dial 9 first, she only heard silence at the other end.

Building on the Herculean effort of Kari Dunn's family, we are one step closer to fixing this problem once and for all. Kari's Law is an important step to making our systems work better in an emergency, but we should not delay taking the next step, and that is providing location information to first responders.

These multiline systems often fail to deliver precise location information. That means that if someone calls 911 from this very building, for instance, precious minutes would tick by as emergency personnel struggle to figure out where the call came from in the Capitol. We should act immediately to

correct this problem, too, because making sure the call goes through is only helpful if public safety officials can find the caller.

Mr. Speaker, that is why Democrats had hoped to include such a provision in H.R. 4167 during markup. We are encouraged by the commitment we received from Subcommittee Chairman WALDEN to work together on a separate bill to address this concern. We hope to get this done soon. With that commitment, I urge Members to support H.R. 4167.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who has been such an advocate for this family and for this change in law and has been terrific to work with on this matter.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GREG WALDEN and also his staff. They have been superb to work with, and it has been refreshing to see how thorough both he and his staff have been in researching this issue. I came prepared to talk about the event and actually how it happened, but Chairman WALDEN did such a fantastic job that the emotion runs high at this point, and I am very grateful for the manner in which this has been presented.

I also want to thank FCC Commissioner Pai, who in the early days stepped up and made this an issue to get people's attention, but no greater thanks goes to anyone than to Kari's father, Hank Hunt.

It was December of 2013 in Marshall, Texas, which is normally known for being a kind and helpful city. Police respond often in 1 or 2 minutes. Kari's 9-year-old daughter has not had her name mentioned anywhere, to my knowledge, and that is because this child did everything she could possibly do, everything she had been taught and trained to do. What a phenomenal, quick-thinking child that she is.

After Kari's death received an outpouring of comments from constituents and other Americans across the country expressing concern over the issue, every day this is an issue. Fortunately, every day someone does not pay the ultimate consequence of dying because it is an issue.

When we looked into this matter, multiline telephone systems can easily be configured or reconfigured to enable callers to reach emergency personnel by dialing 911 without having to dial a prefix at all. Most of the time these changes can be made at no cost, and we have had programmers inform us that they have been doing it at no charge once the issue was brought to their attention.

Some MLTS vendors have offered to upgrade or tune up their existing systems for free also. Additionally, the American Hotel & Lodging Association has worked aggressively with its members across the country to swiftly en-

sure that their systems in place allow guests to directly dial 911 from guest rooms. Most of the American Hotel & Lodging Association's largest hotel member chains have activated 911 direct dial access at nearly all of their owned and managed properties. This bill gives 2 years for those who have not done so. And in view of the fact that this is so widely public, I anticipate people will move much, much more quickly than 2 years.

It is quite refreshing when both sides of the aisle can come together on an issue that saves lives, does not cost anything from taxpayers, is not a mandate that needs funding, and clearly involves interstate commerce and the telecommunications industry. So anyone who dials 911 would reach emergency personnel even if the phone normally requires the user to dial a prefix. Many phones in hotels, offices, even schools don't reach emergency personnel when a user dials 911 in a time of need because the person failed to dial a prefix. This bill changes that for good.

I join Hank Hunt, and I thank full committee Ranking Member PALLONE, Ms. ESHOO, and, again, Chairman WALDEN, Chairman UPTON, and the staffs for the great work done here. We can avoid tragedy again, and it is just refreshing when we work together to make sure that happens.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4167, Kari's Law, and, again, thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for his leadership on this issue and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for working with us on this.

I would encourage passage of the legislation.

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

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. 4167, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## SECURING ACCESS TO NETWORKS IN DISASTERS ACT

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3998) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to commence proceedings related to the resiliency of critical telecommunications networks during times of emergency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3998

*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 publically 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 911 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 911 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable; and

(3) other alternative means of providing the public with access to 911 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 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

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in 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.

Mr. Speaker, in late October of 2012, Superstorm Sandy, the largest Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, hit the Caribbean and Northeastern United States with devastating impact. Sandy caused an estimated \$72 billion in damages in the United States and took 286 lives.

While the economic impact of the storm was massive in scope—homes and buildings damaged or destroyed, roads impassible or washed out altogether—the damage to power and communications infrastructure was particularly severe.

Broadcasting, wireless and landline telephone services, broadband services, cable services all suffered disruptions and outages that lasted long after the storm’s fury had passed. At a time when families struggled to find and reunite with loved ones, this only added to the confusion and, frankly, the panic.

But beyond the impact on the personal communications that are needed to assuage the fears in the wake of a disaster, these outages also threatened the delivery of public safety messages and emergency response services. This put even more lives at risk, including those of the first responders—the men and women who race to save others—and made recovery that much more difficult.

While our public safety and emergency response experts at all levels of government and the communications industry have implemented changes as a result of the lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy, there is more that must be done.

Just a few weeks ago, the wireless industry—CTIA, together with AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon—announced the adoption of the Wireless Network Resiliency Cooperative Framework. This set of voluntary practices will provide consumers with access to wireless services even when their wireless provider’s network goes down, will improve preparedness, and will speed the restoration of services.

I would like to thank Ranking Member PALLONE of New Jersey, whose district suffered so badly and so much from the effects of Sandy. His leadership and efforts led to the industry’s voluntary adoption of this framework, and I commend the industry for its commitment and him for his work.

The SANDY Act lets us build on that accomplishment, as there are some changes that only the government can make. This legislation makes what I believe is a commonsense change to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

and Emergency Assistance Act to recognize not only wireline, but mobile telephone service and broadcast radio, broadcast television, cable service, and broadcast satellite service as essential services when we have an emergency.

This change will ensure that providers of these critical services are not denied or impeded access to a disaster when they are trying to restore service. Without question, these services are critical to ensuring the safety and well-being of both those impacted by the disaster, but also those who are responding to that very disaster.

In addition to expediting access for network restoration teams, this legislation also directs the FCC to study making the telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access and other communications technologies operating on unlicensed spectrum available to access 911 service when commercial mobile service is unavailable.

We have an abundance of communications tools in the modern information economy. We should be looking at ways to leverage all of them during emergencies, and this report will do just that.

I thank the ranking member for his work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 18, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 3998, the Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act, as ordered reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite this legislation for Floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not alter or diminish the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor. I appreciate the Committee on Energy and Commerce working with me to address my concerns.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, May 19, 2016.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 3998, Securing Access to Networks in Disasters Act, as ordered reported by the Committee on Energy