

Act but with some improvements. I want to thank Representatives Leonard Lance and Joe Kennedy for introducing this legislation and working diligently to move it forward. The Senate has already passed essentially the same bill, and so I hope once the House acts today the Senate can quickly pass H.R. 5111 and send it to the President's desk for his signature. This will be an important step in protecting a vital source of information for consumers across the country.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5111.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5111, the Consumer Review Fairness Act, which would protect consumers' First Amendment right to share their experiences with a product or service online. Millions of Americans go online every day to read candid experiences from like-minded consumers, and many also share their reviews on everything from restaurants to clothing to hotels and services.

American consumers should feel confident in providing honest reviews, as the First Amendment protects their right to express their opinions. As a former small business owner, I know that listening to customer feedback is crucial for success, and that constructive criticism is sometimes more helpful than praise. Unfortunately, some businesses have found ways to bully consumers with costly penalties and lawsuits in an effort to hide negative reviews. Instead of trying to improve their own practices, these bad actors are taking their mistakes out on their own customers.

The Consumer Review Fairness Act would stop this unethical practice by prohibiting businesses from penalizing consumers for sharing a review they don't agree with. Our modern day economy is dependent on the free flow of information, and this bill will ensure consumers' rights to openly review products and services are not infringed upon.

I would like to thank my colleagues for introducing this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5111, 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.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE ABOUT A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE INTERNET OF THINGS

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 847) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives about a national strategy for the Internet of Things to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 847

Whereas the Internet of Things currently connects tens of billions of devices world-

wide and has the potential to generate trillions of dollars in economic opportunity;

Whereas increased connectivity can empower consumers in nearly every aspect of their daily lives, including in the fields of agriculture, education, energy, healthcare, public safety, security, and transportation, to name just a few;

Whereas businesses across the economy can simplify logistics, cut costs in supply chains, and pass savings on to consumers because of the Internet of Things and innovations derived from it;

Whereas the Internet of Things, through augmented data collection and process analyses, optimizes energy consumption by increasing energy efficiency and reducing usage and demand;

Whereas the United States should strive to be a world leader in smart cities and smart infrastructure to ensure its citizens and businesses, in both rural and urban parts of the country, have access to the safest and most resilient communities in the world;

Whereas the United States is the world leader in developing the Internet of Things technology, and with a national strategy guiding both public and private entities, the United States will continue to produce breakthrough technologies and lead the world in innovation;

Whereas the evolution of the Internet of Things is a nascent market, the future direction of which holds much promise;

Whereas businesses should implement reasonable privacy and cybersecurity practices and protect consumers' personal information to increase confidence, trust, and acceptance of this emerging market;

Whereas the Internet of Things represents a wide range of technologies, in numerous industry sectors and overseen by various governmental entities; and

Whereas coordination between all stakeholders of the Internet of Things on relevant developments, impediments, and achievements is a vital ingredient to the continued advancement of pioneering technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the United States should develop a national strategy to encourage the development of the Internet of Things in a way that maximizes the promise connected technologies hold to empower consumers, foster future economic growth, and improve the Nation's collective social well-being;

(2) the United States should prioritize accelerating the development and deployment of the Internet of Things in a way that recognizes its benefits, allows for future innovation, and responsibly protects against misuse;

(3) the United States should recognize the important role that businesses play in the future development of the Internet of Things and engage in inclusive dialogue with industry and work cooperatively wherever possible;

(4) the United States Government should determine if using the Internet of Things can improve Government efficiency and effectiveness and cut waste, fraud, and abuse; and

(5) using the Internet of Things, innovators in the United States should commit to improving the quality of life for future generations by developing safe, new technologies aimed at tackling the most challenging societal issues facing the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. 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 into the RECORD on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 847, the Internet of things, kind of a novel concept. The Internet of things represents a significant opportunity for economic growth and for innovation. It represents an opportunity for job creation across virtually every industry and every sector in the United States. The integration of the Internet and networked sensors into physical objects and things creates opportunities for new conveniences, creates opportunities for increased productivity, and substantial efficiency gains throughout our economy. According to McKinsey & Company, the Internet of things has a potential economic impact of \$4 trillion to \$11 trillion by the year 2025.

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As the technology develops and matures, Internet connectivity is capturing more than just objects and traditional household items such as refrigerators, thermostats, and televisions. Today, Internet connectivity is being integrated into industrial processes, transportation routes, workforce practices, supply chain logistics, city operations, and much more. These advancements have been particularly beneficial to the manufacturing sector, where they are enabling greater workplace productivity, factory floor efficiency, and enhanced employee safety.

As a physician who has served people in north Texas for over 25 years before I came to Congress, I see great potential for the Internet of things, particularly in the healthcare space. Internet-connected devices, machines, and applications are creating opportunities for better quality and more efficient care. In addition to providing these benefits, connected healthcare devices help reduce healthcare costs and other health-related expenses that have long been a drag on our economy and on consumers' wallets.

In recognizing the potential for the Internet of things, H. Res. 847 establishes our commitment to realizing that potential through strategic investments that ensure that the Internet of things becomes the engine for job creation, innovation, and economic growth that it promises to be.

Through a national strategy, stakeholders can engage in a more collaborative discussion and resources can be used more effectively, more efficiently to foster the future development of the Internet of things market.

Importantly, a national strategy will foster more consumer confidence, more

consumer trust, and more consumer acceptance in the Internet of things. This, in turn, will drive greater adoption, additional growth opportunities, and societal benefits.

I thank Vice Chairman LANCE for his leadership on this important issue.

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

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

Let me congratulate Mr. LANCE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LATTA, and Congresswoman CLARKE for their work on this important legislation.

The Internet of things is an area of great innovation that deserves attention from Congress. And fortunately, in our subcommittee, we have done just that.

Today, people track their physical activity with wearable devices. We have thermostats in our home that you can control from your phone from anywhere in the world. And that is, of course, only scratching the surface of consumer products that are right now available.

We have been examining some of the issues related to the Internet of things in the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee. One thing is clear to me: technology is moving at a rapid pace, and our laws need to keep pace. I support developing a Federal strategy for how we approach this exciting area of technology.

I would like to underscore a few key principles that must be a part of this approach: one, data security must be protected; two, Americans should understand and consent to the information that consumer devices are collecting; three, these products should be developed with safety in mind.

Agencies like the Federal Trade Commission and Consumer Product Safety Commission already work to promote data security, consumer privacy, and safety. But Congress needs to make sure we provide these agencies the resources and authorities necessary to address today's issues.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to promote innovation in this space and to ensure that the Internet of things further develops in a manner that works for business as well as consumers.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), the author of this legislation, vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I have never been prouder of the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee than I am on this issue. I congratulate Chairman BURGESS and Ranking Member SCHAKOWSKY for their leadership on this issue, and certainly Mr. WELCH for his leadership as well.

I offer this resolution to highlight the importance of the Internet of

things, also known as the Internet of everything. The Internet of things is the network of sensors and electronics in physical objects, ranging from household appliances, such as thermostats to manufacturing equipment.

The Internet of things currently connects tens of billions of devices worldwide and assists consumers in nearly every aspect of their daily lives, including in the field of agriculture, education, energy, health care, public safety, security, and transportation, among many others. The lives of nearly every American are run more efficiently thanks to the Internet of things and the great advances in innovation here in the 21st century.

Our role in Congress should be to help make the Internet of things thrive, to facilitate a Federal support system that empowers exciting new ideas. Ideas such as the 5G radio by Nokia Bell Labs in Murray Hill—Nokia has taken over Bell Labs, but, of course, Bell Labs is fabled in the history of this country and had been so for many, many years—the Smart Cities initiative by Qualcomm in Bridgewater—also in the district I represent—and Verizon in Basking Ridge are helping towns and cities maintain high standards of livability, resiliency, and sustainability by using IOT technology to help city planners create better qualities of life.

Of course, as Chairman BURGESS has indicated, healthcare applications in this area are very promising. They are patient centered and they are economically beneficial. This will be beneficial not only to patients but, of course, to the Medicare and Medicaid programs as well.

According to the management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, the Internet of things has the potential to contribute anywhere from \$4 trillion to \$11 trillion to the economy over the course of the next several decades—this is an enormous increase—based upon innovation here in the 21st century.

The resolution expresses the current and potential future benefits of the Internet of things. I hope that it will put Congress on record in working for its growth and success.

This is really at the heart of what we should be doing in Congress in a bipartisan capacity: getting ahead of the curve on the future of technology in the United States, as the United States, we all hope, will continue to be the leader worldwide in this and other matters. That is why the Internet of things is so important. That is why I am so pleased to be involved with others in this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this, of course, will pass unanimously, and I hope that it will be a harbinger for what we should doing in Congress in so many other areas as well.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), a cosponsor and coauthor of this legislation, as well as my good friend.

Mr. WELCH. I appreciate the gentlewoman's leadership and, by the way, for her fierce leadership on consumer rights for the bill that just passed. I thank my colleagues, Mr. BURGESS and Mr. LANCE, whom I really appreciate, and, of course, the committee chair, FRED UPTON, and Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE.

Mr. Speaker, you would be glad to know that we work pretty hard to be bipartisan and productive in the Energy and Commerce Committee. It takes a good deal of effort on both sides.

This legislation is really an acknowledgement about this new technology—the application of the Internet to activities that are cutting across the entire economy, everything from agriculture to medicine—and it is an acknowledgment by Congress that this is a private sector-led, entrepreneurial-led range of opportunities that has the potential to increase efficiency and productivity.

For instance, on farms you have GPS planting done by GPS-guided tractors. It results in much better planting with fewer seeds. It saves money and increases crop yields.

In medicine, as you know, telemedicine is being tremendously helpful to folks, like in Vermont, where we are a very rural State and it is tough for folks to make a 60-, 70-mile journey to the VA. With telemedicine, we are able to have the doctor in that person's local office. So it is a tremendous benefit to consumers there as well.

The other thing that is really important is that, for this to be deployed, it is not a matter of us trying to come up with a regulation. The innovations that are occurring are so rapid that it really would be impossible for anybody to write a regulation that would be anything but obstructive.

On the other hand, with Congress getting involved, there are going to be, as we go along, some issues of privacy and some issues of cybersecurity. When it comes to health records, all of us are going to be certain that those records are safe and private. When it comes to other things, like if somebody hacks into your Fitbit and finds out how many steps you took in a day, it is not such a big deal.

But this is where Congress is going to have to play a role, because industry is going to want to be certain that the rights of their consumers and the users of their products are being protected and their information is private and safe.

So we are acknowledging, as a Congress, Republicans and Democrats, that there is this new frontier with use of the Internet where entrepreneurs in the private sector are coming up with applications that can improve efficiency and productivity in almost every walk of life.

One of the ongoing challenges in our committee will be to make certain that the broadband infrastructure that

is required in order to make this benefit available to folks in rural America is built out properly.

I have been working very closely with BOB LATTA of Ohio, who has a big rural district, to try to make certain that we have a commitment in the technology space for broadband deployment all across America. It makes a huge difference in rural communities in our State of Vermont and BOB LATTA's district in Ohio, where, if you have somebody who has got a good idea in a business, if they are in a small town with a population of a couple hundred people, as long as they have high-speed Internet, they are going to be able to take advantage of this.

So it is a pleasure, I think, for all of us to find something that we agree on that is substantive and is important. I thank all the folks who have had a hand in bringing us here to this moment where we are going to have an opportunity to vote on this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will close with this. The language of this resolution is very clear. It is the sense of the House of Representatives: "the United States should develop a national strategy to encourage the development of the Internet of things in a way that maximizes the promise connected technologies hold to empower consumers, foster future economic growth, and improve the Nation's collective social well-being."

So, with passing this resolution, we are setting the table for future work to make sure that we encourage these developments.

I want to thank so much all the sponsors and our chairmen of the subcommittee and full committee.

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

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

I thank Vice Chairman LANCE for his leadership on this important issue, and I urge an "aye" vote on the resolution.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 847, which would express the sense of the House of Representatives about a national strategy for the Internet of Things.

We are truly living in the internet age, and new technologies are developing each day. High performing mobile devices and cloud technologies that seemed so new are already commonplace in the business world and at home.

Broadband internet access is expanding into communities across the nation, and it is more affordable than ever. As innovators add internet connectivity to an increasing number of ordinary objects, we need to be thinking ahead to the next big thing.

H. Res. 847 expresses the sense that we need to encourage innovation and development of these technologies through cooperation with industry and consumers. It is also important to look ahead to how the Internet of Things can be used to improve the efficiency

of our government and reduce waste and abuse.

By preparing for these technologies now, our nation will enjoy greater benefits in the future. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 847.

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. BURGESS. 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.

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EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING A NATIONAL POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE CONSUMERS' ACCESS TO FINANCIAL TOOLS AND ONLINE COMMERCE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 835) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should adopt a national policy for technology to promote consumers' access to financial tools and online commerce to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 835

Whereas technology solutions have the potential to improve consumers' ability to control their economic well-being, to encourage their financial literacy, and improve their knowledge base and increase their options to manage their finances and engage in commerce;

Whereas new payment methods and new payment strategies reflect new commercial opportunities;

Whereas the United States is the world leader in software development and technology creation;

Whereas financial technology is creating new opportunities for the 24,800,000 underbanked households in the United States;

Whereas the growth of consumers' use of mobile devices and the deployment of broadband access has supported the growth of financial technology products and services outside of traditional products and services offered by banks and other financial institutions in the United States increasing commerce and job growth;

Whereas identity theft is a rising concern for people in the United States as their personal information is targeted by criminal enterprises for monetization on the black market;

Whereas cyberattacks against domestic and international financial institutions and cooperatives continue;

Whereas emerging payment options, including alternative non-fiat currencies, are leveraging technology to improve security

through increased transparency and verifiable trust mechanisms to supplant decades old payment technology deployed by traditional financial institutions; and

Whereas blockchain technology with the appropriate protections has the potential to fundamentally change the manner in which trust and security are established in online transactions through various potential applications in sectors including financial services, payments, health care, energy, property management, and intellectual property management: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the United States should develop a national policy to encourage the development of tools for consumers to learn and protect their assets in a way that maximizes the promise customized, connected devices hold to empower consumers, foster future economic growth, create new commerce and new markets;

(2) the United States should prioritize accelerating the development of alternative technologies that support transparency, security, and authentication in a way that recognizes their benefits, allows for future innovation, and responsibly protects consumers' personal information;

(3) the United States should recognize that technology experts can play an important role in the future development of consumer-facing technology applications for manufacturing, automobiles, telecommunications, tourism, health care, energy, and general commerce;

(4) the United States should support further innovation, and economic growth, and ensure cybersecurity, and the protection of consumer privacy; and

(5) innovators in technology, manufacturing, automobiles, telecommunications, tourism, health care, and energy industries should commit to improving the quality of life for future generations by developing safe and consumer protective, new technology aimed at improving consumers' access to commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. 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 into the RECORD on the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 835.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, I have chaired two hearings in our Disrupter Series exploring fintech. Over the last year, the subcommittee has examined mobile payments, digital currencies, and blockchain technology. There is no question that this new technology is changing the face of global payments and commerce.

The rise of the smartphone has drastically changed consumer behavior