

determine whether Open RAN is an appropriate network solution for them. Under the bill, the Assistant Secretary of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, will be required to engage in outreach and provide technical assistance to small communications providers concerning the uses, benefits, and challenges of Open RAN and other open network architectures.

NTIA will also inquire about the providers' participation in the Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program, which was established in the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

Madam Speaker, I commend Representatives ALLRED, O'HALLERAN, GUTHRIE, and HUDSON for their bipartisan work on this bill. This is a good bill, as it ensures that our country's small communications providers have the necessary help to make informed decisions about the need for new technology in their wireless networks.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill in a bipartisan manner, and I look forward to its consideration in the Senate. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

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

Madam Speaker, again, I rise today in support of H.R. 4032, the Open RAN Outreach Act, which was introduced by Representatives ALLRED, GUTHRIE, O'HALLERAN, and HUDSON.

Open RAN compatible technology will play an important role as communications networks evolve over the coming decade. While most networks today are limited to integrated systems provided by one or two vendors, the deployment of Open RAN compatible technology will encourage innovation, competition, and new entrants in the communications marketplace.

By encouraging a robust market for Open RAN compatible technology, the cost of trusted equipment is expected to decrease over time. These lower costs will help smaller wireless providers deploy mobile broadband cost effectively without having to turn to untrusted vendors like Huawei.

As small, and often rural, providers upgrade to 5G and replace untrusted Huawei or ZTE equipment, we must keep in mind the difficulty these providers may have in taking advantage of some of the programs offered in Washington.

H.R. 4032 would require NTIA to conduct outreach and technical assistance to these small and rural providers to make sure they have the information necessary if they choose to take advantage of Open RAN compatible technologies.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED).

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, our Nation's future depends on protecting our wireless networks from vulnerabilities and untrusted vendors like Chinese-backed companies. That is why today I rise in support of my bipartisan bill, the Open RAN Outreach Act.

This bill encourages the administration to provide outreach and technical assistance to small communications network providers regarding how to use Open Radio Access Networks, or Open RAN technologies, including those produced in my district in north Texas.

Many carriers use a closed or proprietary network, meaning that they need to use one vendor or manufacturer. This can place a substantial cost burden on smaller carriers to reduce costs, potentially by using cheaper, Chinese-owned alternatives like Huawei.

Open RAN allows different components to be produced by different companies, leading to a more diverse and competitive supply chain. My legislation ensures smaller carriers have the tools they need to deploy Open RAN if desired, helping secure our wireless networks.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" in support of this bill.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4032, the Open RAN Outreach Act.

Untrusted telecommunication companies, such as Chinese Communist Party-backed Huawei, are able to offer low-cost equipment to small and rural providers across the globe due to the Chinese Government subsidizing them.

Due to congressional action, untrusted vendors can no longer provide telecommunications equipment in the U.S., and bills I have supported, such as Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act and USA Telecommunications Act, help remove untrusted equipment to secure our networks and promote competition.

The Open RAN Outreach Act further builds on our efforts to strengthen our supply chain and ensure untrusted equipment is kept out of American telecommunications networks.

Open RAN technology can help diversify telecommunications technology and help increase competition. This technology is an open network infrastructure that can have multiple components from multiple manufacturers.

The Open RAN Outreach Act requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide small and rural providers information on the opportunities and challenges of implementing Open RAN compatible technology.

If providers would like to use this technology, this bill also requires NTIA to support implementation of Open RAN technologies. Promoting a

more competitive market of trusted alternative vendors to provide 5G equipment remains an important component in the strategy to protect U.S. networks.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representatives ALLRED, HUDSON, and O'HALLERAN for working with me on this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I know we had the hearing on Open RAN in committee, and I heard the testimony that day, and how we can expand our networks across the country is absolutely essential. As we know, as we go into the different types of technologies, we are going to need as much as we possibly can, and so this bill is going to help.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the sponsors for bringing it before us today. I urge support of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, in closing, I would ask that Members support this bill that helps our small communications providers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4032, 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. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4067) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a council to make recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4067

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 "Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council Act".

SEC. 2. COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEROPERABILITY.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Commission shall establish a council, to advise the Commission on issues including the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The members of the council shall be appointed by the Chair.

(2) COMPOSITION.—To the extent practicable, the membership of the council shall be composed of the following:

(A) Representatives of companies in the communications industry, except companies that are determined by the Chair to be not trusted.

(B) Representatives of public interest organizations or academic institutions, except public interest organizations or academic institutions that are determined by the Chair to be not trusted.

(C) Representatives of the Federal Government, State governments, local governments, or Tribal Governments, with at least one member representing each such type of government.

(3) KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.—Each member of the council shall have knowledge and experience relevant to the purpose and goals of the council.

(4) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the council shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, except as provided in subparagraph (B).

(B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the council is established under subsection (a), and every 2 years thereafter, the council shall submit to the Chair each report adopted by the council during the preceding 2-year period, and any report adopted by any working group of the council during such period, including any such report of the council or a working group containing recommendations on ways to increase the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks, and on other relevant issues as appropriate.

(2) AVAILABILITY ON COMMISSION WEBSITE.—The Commission shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Commission.

(d) DURATION.—Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.; relating to the termination of advisory committees) shall not apply to the council.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHAIR.—The term "Chair" means the Chair of the Commission.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) COUNCIL.—The term "council" means the council established under subsection (a).

(4) NOT TRUSTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "not trusted" means, with respect to an entity, that—

(i) the Chair has made a public determination that such entity is owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of a foreign adversary; or

(ii) the Chair otherwise determines that such entity poses a threat to the national security of the United States.

(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Chair shall use the criteria described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 2(c) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601(c)), as appropriate.

(5) STATE.—The term "State" has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam 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. 4067.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4067, the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council Act.

As we have seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our Nation's communications networks play an important role in our daily lives. Indeed, these networks have helped us remain connected when we were not able to see family and friends in person. It is vital that we continue to do all we can to protect this critical infrastructure and ensure it is reliable and available to all Americans.

The Federal Communications Commission's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, or CSRIC, is meant to do just that. It is made up of government leaders at the Federal, State, and local levels, and includes thought leaders from industry and public interest organizations. The council provides the FCC with recommendations on the best practices and actions the agency could take so that our communications networks are secure, reliable, and compatible with each other.

CSRIC has been in existence since 2009 and was recently rechartered by acting FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel for another 5 years.

CSRIC has served the FCC well by operating in a collaborative manner with representatives from private industry, government, and other key stakeholders. This year the council will be cochaired by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and will include even greater participation from the public interest community.

But given the important objectives of CSRIC, we should not leave it to the FCC's discretion on whether to recharter this council or not every 2 years. Instead, CSRIC must become a permanent fixture at the FCC.

H.R. 4067 requires the Federal Communications Commission to do just that. Under this bill, the FCC would be required to establish a permanent council to advise the agency on the security, reliability, and interoperability of communications networks within 90 days. This council would include representatives from trusted communications companies, public interest organizations, academic institutions, as well as Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments for a term of 2 years.

This bill also requires the council and its working groups to submit reports offering their recommendations to the chair of the FCC every 2 years. In turn, the FCC must make these reports publicly available on its website.

I want to thank Representatives SCHRADER and SLOTKIN for their leadership on this bill, as well as Representative WALBERG for working with us to move this bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee. This bill is an important step in protecting our communications networks from bad actors and foreign adversaries.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, I look forward to its consideration by the Senate, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4067, the Communications Security Advisory Act of 2021, which was introduced by Representatives WALBERG, SLOTKIN, and SCHRADER.

This bill takes an important step in preserving and strengthening the FCC's existing Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, or CSRIC, which plays an important role facilitating collaboration between the private sector and the FCC.

CSRIC maintains an important role that ensures our emergency alerting system and 911 systems remain reliable in times of emergency. CSRIC has also adopted voluntary recommendations to improve wireless security. These efforts have focused on how best to plan for and address vulnerabilities in 5G networks.

Together, technical experts from across different parts of the communications industry leverage their decades of experience to help advance continued U.S. technological leadership and sound policymaking. CSRIC's support of these important FCC missions will only become more important as we continue to deploy 5G, next-generation television, and other wireless technologies.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Ohio for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4067, the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council Act. I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives SLOTKIN and SCHRADER, for joining me in leading on this important legislation.

Though we don't agree on every issue, I am proud of our bipartisan record when it comes to securing our Nation's communications networks

and maintaining our leadership in next-generation wireless technology.

H.R. 4067 codifies an existing FCC council advisory council, the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council, better known as CSRIC.

First established in 1992 under its previous name as the Network Reliability Council, CSRIC makes key recommendations to the FCC on a range of public safety and national security issues—everything from deploying next-generation 911 systems to emergency alerting during storms and disasters, to addressing threats from foreign adversaries.

At a legislative hearing earlier this year, we heard from cybersecurity experts who said that CSRIC is one of the “crown jewels” of our Government and that there would be tremendous, long-term value in backing it up statutorily while retaining its flexibility to tackle the new challenges of the day.

Another former CSRIC panel member spoke to how other countries around the world look to this body to implement best communications and security practices. He said—and I agree with him—that CSRIC is one of the unique platforms which enables the U.S. to lead the rest of the world in 5G, 6G, and beyond.

As the world becomes increasingly digital and our communications systems advance toward open-source software platforms, cyberattacks and threats are only going to increase. We have to be prepared as a nation to meet this moment, and CSRIC helps us do that.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4067.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I ask the gentleman from Ohio if he has any additional speakers.

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, that was my last speaker.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I think what we are seeing today, we have a theme, especially coming from the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Communications and Technology Subcommittee that we are talking about security, reliability, and interoperability of our systems out there and the importance of it.

As we look back over the last year and a half, where would we have been if we didn’t have the systems that we had to make sure as we went through COVID for everything from telehealth to education to manufacturing to business and people just communicating back and forth with one another, but we have to make sure these systems are secure.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will help that. I urge support of the House on the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, again, I ask Members to support this bill as another step in helping us with

our communications security as well as reliability.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4067, 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. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1715

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4028) to require the Secretary of Commerce to report on and develop a whole-of-Government strategy with respect to the economic competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4028

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 “Information and Communication Technology Strategy Act”.

SEC. 2. ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPLY CHAIN.

(a) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary 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 information and communication technology supply chain that—

(1) identifies—

(A) information and communication technology critical to the economic competitiveness of the United States; and

(B) the industrial capacity of—

(i) United States vendors that produce information and communication technology identified under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) trusted information and communication technology vendors that produce information and communication technology identified under subparagraph (A);

(2) assesses the economic competitiveness of vendors described under paragraph (1)(B);

(3) assesses whether, and to what extent, there is a dependence by providers of advanced telecommunications capability in the United States on information and communication technology identified under paragraph (1)(A) that is not trusted;

(4) identifies—

(A) what actions by the Federal Government are needed to support, and bolster the economic

competitiveness of, trusted information and communication technology vendors; and

(B) what Federal resources are needed to reduce dependence by providers of advanced telecommunications capability in the United States on companies that—

(i) produce information and communication technology; and

(ii) are not trusted; and

(5) defines lines of effort and assigns responsibilities for a whole-of-Government response to ensuring the competitiveness of the information and communication technology supply chain in the United States.

(b) *WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT STRATEGY.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall develop, on the basis of the report required by subsection (a), a whole-of-Government strategy to ensure the economic competitiveness of trusted information and communication technology vendors that includes—

(A) recommendations on how—

(i) to strengthen the structure, resources, and authorities of the Federal Government to support the economic competitiveness of trusted information and communication technology vendors, including United States vendors that are trusted information and communication technology vendors; and

(ii) the Federal Government can address any barriers to a market-based solution for increasing the economic competitiveness of such information and communication technology vendors;

(B) defined lines of effort and responsibilities for Federal agencies to implement the strategy; and

(C) a description of—

(i) any change to a Federal program, Federal law, or structure of the Federal Government necessary to implement any recommendation under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) any additional Federal resource necessary to implement any recommendation under subparagraph (A).

(2) *REPORT.*—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary 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 containing the strategy developed under paragraph (1).

(c) *CONSULTATION REQUIRED.*—In carrying out subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) a cross-section of trusted information and communication technology vendors; and

(2) the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of National Intelligence, the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission and any other head of an agency the Secretary determines necessary.

(d) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY.*—The term “advanced telecommunications capability” has the meaning given that term in section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302).

(2) *INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPLY CHAIN.*—The term “information and communication technology supply chain” means all of the companies that produce information and communication technology.

(3) *INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.*—The term “information and communication technology” means a technology (including software), component, or material that enables communications by radio or wire.

(4) *NOT TRUSTED.*—The term “not trusted” means, with respect to a company or information and communication technology, that the company or information and communication technology is determined by the Secretary to pose an unacceptable risk to national security of the United States, or the security and safety of the United States persons based solely on one