

in favor of H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Ms. MATSUI and my colleague from Virginia for their support of this bill. In closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5200.

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. ALLEN. Madam 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 REPORTING ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5201) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5201

*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 Reporting Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KARI'S LAW ACT OF 2017.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall publish on the website of the Commission a report regarding the enforcement by the Commission of section 721 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623), which shall include—

(1) a summary of the extent to which multi-line telephone system manufacturers and vendors have complied with such section;

(2) potential difficulties and obstacles in complying with such section;

(3) potential ways, if necessary, to improve the policies of the Commission to better enforce such section; and

(4) recommendations to Congress, if necessary, on further legislation that could mitigate problems like those that are addressed by such section.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.—The term “multi-line telephone system” has the meaning given such term in section 721(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623(f)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 5201, Kari's Law Reporting Act, led by Representative MATSUI.

Kari's Law, enacted in 2018, was named in honor of Kari Hunt, who was killed in a motel room in Marshall, Texas, in 2013. Ms. Hunt's 9-year-old daughter tried to call 911 for help four times from the motel room phone, but the call did not go through because the phone system required dialing 9 for an outbound call before dialing 911.

The law requires multiline telephone systems, such as those in offices, campuses, and hotels, to allow direct 911 dialing without extra digits when a 911 call is made. This legislation would require the FCC to issue a report within 180 days to determine the extent to which multiline telephone system manufacturers are complying with Kari's Law Act of 2017. Requiring these systems in large buildings or campuses will help save lives in case of an emergency.

This legislation has strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5201, the Kari's Law Reporting Act. This is an important bill that follows up on legislation signed into law in 2018.

The original Kari's Law was prompted by the tragic story of a young child unable to reach 911 when it mattered most. During what became a fatal domestic dispute in a hotel room, she repeatedly dialed 911 to call for help, but the call was never connected because the hotel system required guests to dial a prefix to make an external call. The young daughter of the victim did exactly as she was taught and correctly dialed 911, but that one digit ultimately stood between Kari Hunt and the help that she needed that day.

Kari's Law requires providers of multiline telephone systems, which serve entities like office buildings and hotels, to reconfigure their systems to enable callers to simply dial 911 without a prefix to reach emergency assistance.

Today, however, it is evident that providers have yet to fully comply with Kari's Law, and so this legislation will provide Congress and the FCC with the tools necessary to track down delinquent providers and ensure they comply with the law. This is critically im-

portant so that tragedies like that of Kari Hunt do not happen again.

I thank Ranking Member MATSUI and Representative BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5201.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), the ranking member.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I rise in support of H.R. 5201, Kari's Law Reporting Act.

In an emergency, there is no room for confusion or delay. Every second counts, and every American should have confidence that when they dial 911, help is on the way.

This is why Congressman BILIRAKIS and I partnered in this bipartisan bill. It builds upon Kari's Law, which Congress passed in 2018, to require multiline telephone systems to allow direct dialing of 911 without needing to dial an extra digit.

That law came from the tragic murder of Kari Hunt when her daughter couldn't reach emergency services from a hotel phone because she didn't know she needed to dial an extra 9 first.

Our bill helps ensure the law is working as intended by directing the FCC to report on compliance in hotels, offices, and facilities nationwide.

That kind of accountability matters, and we need to make sure these life-saving protections are being followed and practiced.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the Kari's Law Reporting Act.

□ 1650

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5201, the Kari's Law Reporting Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support of this bill and Ms. MATSUI for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5201.

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. ALLEN. 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.

### RURAL BROADBAND PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.

98) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 98

*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 “Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 2. VETTING PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND APPLICANTS.**

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) VETTING OF HIGH-COST FUND RECIPIENTS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘covered funding’ means any new offer of high-cost universal service program funding, including funding provided through a reverse competitive bidding mechanism provided under this section, for the deployment of a broadband-capable network and the provision of supported services over the network; and

“(B) the term ‘new covered funding award’ means an award of covered funding that is made based on an application submitted to the Commission on or after the date on which rules are promulgated under paragraph (2).

“(2) COMMISSION RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a vetting process for applicants for, and other recipients of, a new covered funding award.

“(3) CONTENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating rules under paragraph (2), the Commission shall provide that, consistent with principles of technology neutrality, the Commission will only award covered funding to applicants that can demonstrate that they meet the qualifications in subparagraph (B).

“(B) QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED.—An applicant for a new covered funding award shall include in the initial application a proposal containing sufficient detail and documentation for the Commission to ascertain that the applicant possesses the technical, financial, and operational capabilities, and has a reasonable business plan, to deploy the proposed network and deliver services with the relevant performance characteristics and requirements defined by the Commission and as pledged by the applicant.

“(C) EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL.—The Commission shall evaluate a proposal described in subparagraph (B) against—

“(i) reasonable and well-established technical, financial, and operational standards, including the technical standards adopted by the Commission in orders of the Commission relating to Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (WC Docket No. 19-195) (or orders of the Commission relating to modernizing any successor collection) for purposes of entities that must report broadband availability coverage; and

“(ii) the applicant’s history of complying with requirements in Commission and other government broadband deployment funding programs.

“(D) PENALTIES FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION DEFAULTS.—In adopting rules for any new covered funding award, the Commission shall set a penalty for pre-authorization defaults of at least \$9,000 per violation and may not limit the base forfeiture to an amount less

than 30 percent of the applicant’s total support, unless the Commission demonstrates the need for lower penalties in a particular instance.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. 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 Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 98, the Rural Broadband Protection Act. The House version of this bill, led by Representative HOUCHIN, passed the House by voice vote last year.

The Federal Communications Commission’s Universal Service Fund provides funding to support the deployment and operation of broadband networks in our rural communities. Although most recipients of this support fulfill their deployment obligations, there have been cases in the past where commitments were unmet.

The Rural Broadband Protection Act requires the FCC to establish a process for upfront vetting of broadband providers seeking USF funds to ensure they are qualified to uphold their obligations. It also directs the FCC to set penalties for those providers that do not build out where they promised.

These new steps will ensure that USF support only goes to qualified providers and that those providers follow through on their commitments to serve rural Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative HOUCHIN for her leadership on this bill and encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 98, the Senate companion to H.R. 2399, or the Rural Broadband Protection Act, which passed the House in 2025.

This legislation would direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a process to more thoroughly vet internet service providers participating in the Universal Service Fund’s High Cost program.

For years, it has been clear that Congress must step in to enact reforms to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in the High Cost program. Following an investigation by Energy and Commerce Democrats in 2017, the Government Accountability Office opened its own inquiry into reports of abuse of High Cost support.

In a scathing report, the GAO identified a remarkable lack of oversight by the FCC and recommended greater accountability to ensure precious USF dollars are spent on the mission of deploying high-speed broadband to unserved and underserved communities.

Since then, we have seen modest progress to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the High Cost program, but more accountability is needed.

I commend Representatives KELLY and HOUCHIN for their work on this legislation to bring greater oversight and accountability to the High Cost program and protect the integrity of USF funds, every dime of which must go to help unserved and underserved communities still lacking high-speed internet.

I believe this legislation will help address critical gaps in the vetting process for High Cost recipients and curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, so I urge my colleagues to support S. 98.

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 98, the Rural Broadband Protection Act, a bill I authored and passed out of the House as H.R. 2399 and an issue I have long championed.

In April, we passed the House version of this bill. In June, the Senate passed the identical text, sponsored by my friend Senator CAPITO also by voice vote. Today, we have a chance to finish the job and send this legislation to the President’s desk.

Across Indiana and rural America, families, farmers, students, and small business owners still struggle with slow and unreliable internet access, and it is more than an inconvenience. It is a barrier to opportunity, to education, to healthcare, and to economic growth.

When Congress invests in rural broadband, we have an obligation to make sure those dollars reach the communities they are meant to serve and that the providers that are receiving them are capable of getting the job done.

That is exactly what the Rural Broadband Protection Act does.

It directs the Federal Communications Commission to vet applicants for broadband funding based on their experience, their technical capability, and their demonstrated ability to deploy. It brings accountability and transparency to the grant review process, ensuring taxpayer dollars go to real, shovel-ready projects, not phantom providers or empty promises.

This is smart, bipartisan, common-sense legislation. It passed the Energy and Commerce Committee 51-1. It passed the House by a voice vote last April. It passed the Senate by voice in June.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator CAPITO for her leadership on the Senate side

and my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for moving this bill with overwhelming bipartisan support. Today, we have a chance to deliver a long-overdue win for rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 98. Let's get this bill to the President's desk where it can finally become law.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 98, the Rural Broadband Protection Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support. In closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 98.

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.

#### ADJUSTING IMPORTS OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-150)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with applicable law, including section 232(c)(2) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1862(c)(2)) (section 232), I am submitting to the Congress this written statement of the reasons why I have decided to take action to adjust imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

On January 5, 2026, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), in accordance with section 232, transmitted to me a report on his investigation into the effects of imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients on the national security of the United States. Based on the facts considered in that investigation, the Secretary found and advised me of his opinion that pharmaceuticals and associated active pharmaceutical ingredients, including key starting materials, are being imported into the United States in such quantities and under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

In Proclamation 11020 of April 2, 2026 (Adjusting Imports of Pharmaceuticals

and Pharmaceutical Ingredients Into The United States) (Proclamation), after considering the Secretary's report, the factors in section 232(d) (19 U.S.C. 1862(d)), and other relevant factors and information, among other things, I concurred with the Secretary's finding that pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients are being imported into the United States in such quantities and under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security of the United States. In my judgment, and in light of the Secretary's report, the factors in section 232(d) (19 U.S.C. 1862(d)), and other relevant factors and information, I determined that it is necessary and appropriate to adopt a plan of action to adjust such imports of pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States. In particular, I determined that it is necessary and appropriate for the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and any senior official they deem appropriate, to pursue or continue pursuing negotiations of agreements to address the threatened impairment of the national security with respect to imported pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients. In the Proclamation, I noted that depending on the status or outcome of those negotiations, I may take other measures to adjust the imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients to address the threat to the national security found in the Proclamation. I also determined that it is necessary and appropriate to impose an immediate *ad valorem* duty rate on the import of certain patented pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients to address the national security threat found in the Proclamation.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation that I have issued. The Proclamation further explains the circumstances underlying the threat to impair the national security of the United States posed by imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients and the actions taken in the Proclamation to eliminate that threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 16, 2026.

□ 1700

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1681; and

H.R. 5200.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### EXPEDITING FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT REVIEWS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1681) to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 9, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

YEAS—384

Adams	Cammack	Davids (KS)
Aderholt	Carbajal	Davidson
Aguilar	Carey	Davis (IL)
Alford	Carson	Davis (NC)
Allen	Carter (GA)	Dean (PA)
Amo	Carter (LA)	DeGette
Arrington	Carter (TX)	DeLauro
Auchincloss	Case	DeBene
Babin	Casten	Deluzio
Bacon	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Balderson	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais
Barragan	Cherfilus	Dexter
Barrett	McCormick	Diaz-Balart
Baumgartner	Chu	Dingell
Bean (FL)	Ciscomani	Doggett
Beatty	Cisneros	Donalds
Begich	Clark (MA)	Downing
Bell	Clarke (NY)	Dunn (FL)
Bentz	Cleaver	Edwards
Bera	Clyburn	Elfreth
Bergman	Cohen	Elzey
Beyer	Cole	Emmer
Bice	Collins	Escobar
Biggs (SC)	Comer	Espallat
Bilirakis	Conaway	Estes
Bishop	Correa	Evans (CO)
Boebert	Costa	Evans (PA)
Bonamici	Courtney	Ezell
Bost	Craig	Fallon
Boyle (PA)	Crane	Fedorchak
Bresnahan	Crank	Feenstra
Brown	Crawford	Fields
Budzinski	Crockett	Figures
Bynum	Crow	Fine
Calvert	Cuellar	Finstad