



**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION**
Senator Maria Cantwell, Chair

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**Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Executive Session**

July 27, 2023

Opening Statement
[VIDEO](#)

Senator Cantwell: Good morning. The U.S. Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will come to order for an Executive Session. We are here to consider 11 important, bipartisan bills.

We will consider The Orbital Sustainability or ORBITS Act, which will jumpstart the technology development we need to address the very serious problem of orbital debris that threatens our scientific satellites, human space exploration and commercial space services. I want to thank Senators Hickenlooper, Lummis, Wicker and Sinema for their leadership on this legislation.

Next, we're considering the Combating Human Rights Abuses Act, led by Senators Peters and Lummis. This bill confronts human rights abuses around the world, particularly those suffered by the Uyghur population in China. By providing training and guidance to Commerce Department employees, we will equip them to combat violence globally.

Next, we will advance the bipartisan National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act, led by Senators Peters and Baldwin, to create a National Manufacturing Council based at the Department of Commerce to advise Congress on how to ensure the U.S. maintains its global leadership in manufacturing.

This Council would act as a bridge between the private sector and the federal government on manufacturing issues. And I personally believe, looking at my own state, that the advent of the information age and advancements in information technology, and the bill that we passed on the CHIPS and Science is really helping us bring back manufacturing to the United States and create more high-wage jobs.

I am pleased to join Ranking Member Cruz in the TICKET Act, which will bring transparency and fairness to event ticketing by requiring ticket sellers to disclose total ticket prices up front. I thank Senator Cruz for this legislation, and [this legislation] puts an end to hidden fees. The price will say exactly what you will pay.

Some of my colleagues have raised concerns about speculative ticket pricing. I know our colleague, Senator Klobuchar, has been a leader and I want to work with her and others to ensure that in the future venues who have to fight against the scourge of people trying to pretend that they're selling tickets to their venue that we actually stop that practice in the future.

The Launch Communications Act provides the U.S. commercial space launch industry with streamlined access to radio frequency spectrum needed for safe and efficient launches. I want to thank Senators Schmitt and Hickenlooper for this legislation, which will help ensure the United States remains a global leader in commercial [launch].

Next, we have the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act. I want to thank Senators Markey and Cruz for leading this effort and our colleagues Baldwin, Fischer, Lujan, Vance, Wicker, Capito, Klobuchar, Budd, Blackburn, Tester, Young and Sullivan, along with myself, for cosponsoring the AM Radio bill because it is an essential source of local news, weather and emergency information. And this is important information to make sure that it remains a part of what consumer have access to.

The Strengthening Support for American Manufacturing Act is next, led by Senators Peters and Blackburn.

We will also consider the American Cybersecurity Literacy Act, introduced by Senators Klobuchar and Thune. This bill would authorize a cybersecurity literacy campaign to educate more Americans on how to protect against cyberattacks and data breaches.

Next, I am asking my colleagues to support the Country of Origin Online Labeling Act. This bill, led by Senators Baldwin and Vance, requires that online sellers must disclose their products' country of origin. This brings transparency and accountability to the online marketplace and helps consumers make informed choices.

Since the Committee last considered this legislation, Senator Baldwin and others have worked hard to address the concerns of retailers, the agriculture industry, and members on this Committee. I appreciate their hard work in finding solutions.

And, finally, we are here to advance legislation that we previously advanced through this Committee on children's privacy online. These remain very important issues.

The Markey Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act or COPPA 2.0 is vital upgrade to the original legislation to protecting children's health and safety.

We know that children and teens are uniquely vulnerable in the online world and they can be overwhelmed with the complexities of online content that is manipulated and targeted at them.

This bill strengthens protections, closes loopholes, and makes sure that we are focusing on children in a broader range of age. It also helps protect and empowers teens, requiring consent before their data can be collected. We must ensure that we can provide better protections.

I thank Senator Markey for his tireless efforts here over many years.

We also will consider the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA). It's long overdue to address the mental health crisis affecting kids, with alarming suicide rates and incidents of self-harm, and social media's impact on children.

We have listened to many parents about their support of KOSA legislation and making sure that parents are empowered with tools they need to help protect the well-being of their children. This bill also demands accountability from online platforms, requiring them to prioritize safety and respond to parents. Parents want to make sure that they have the tools at hand.

I've heard from some advocates, particularly some in the LGBTQ community, about continuing concerns with this legislation, and we will continue to work with them on this.

This bill isn't the last of privacy issues that we will consider in this Committee and we hope that when we return in September we will be considering many more other issues related to this as well.