

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6189

To transfer unobligated balances made available for COVID–19 emergency response and relief to the Federal Communications Commission to enable the Commission to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Ms. HOULAHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To transfer unobligated balances made available for COVID–19 emergency response and relief to the Federal Communications Commission to enable the Commission to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Defend Our Networks  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN UNOBLIGATED BALANCES;**  
2 **FUNDING OF PROGRAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COMMISSION; PROGRAM.—The terms “Com-  
5 mission” and “Program” have the meanings given  
6 those terms in section 9 of the Secure and Trusted  
7 Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.  
8 1608).

9 (2) COVERED ACCOUNTS.—The term “covered  
10 accounts” means amounts made available under—

11 (A) the Coronavirus Preparedness and Re-  
12 sponse Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020  
13 (Public Law 116–123; 134 Stat. 146);

14 (B) the Families First Coronavirus Re-  
15 sponse Act (Public Law 116–127; 134 Stat.  
16 178);

17 (C) the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136;  
18 134 Stat. 281);

19 (D) the Paycheck Protection Program and  
20 Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law  
21 116–139; 134 Stat. 620);

22 (E) division M or N of the Consolidated  
23 Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–  
24 260);

25 (F) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021  
26 (Public Law 117–2; 135 Stat. 4); or

1 (G) an amendment made by a provision of  
2 law described in any of subparagraphs (A)  
3 through (F).

4 (b) FUNDING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the unobligated balances,  
6 as of the date of enactment of this Act, of the cov-  
7 ered accounts, \$3,080,000,000 shall be transferred  
8 not later than 90 days after the date of enactment  
9 of this Act to the Commission to carry out the Pro-  
10 gram.

11 (2) PRO RATA TRANSFER.—Unobligated bal-  
12 ances shall be transferred under paragraph (1) on a  
13 pro rata basis.

14 (3) USE AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—  
15 Amounts transferred under paragraph (1) shall—

16 (A) be merged with other appropriations  
17 for the Program;

18 (B) be subject to the same conditions and  
19 limitations as the other appropriations for the  
20 Program; and

21 (C) remain available until expended.

22 (4) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-  
23 MENT.—Section 4(k) of the Secure and Trusted  
24 Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.

- 1 1603(k) is amended by striking “\$1,900,000,000”
- 2 and inserting “\$4,980,000,000”.

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