



Committee: Senate Judiciary Committee

Event: [Executive Business Meeting](#)

Date: June 18, 2026

Executive Summary:

On June 18, 2026, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a Business Meeting to consider eight nominations and markup three bills, including the NO FAKES Act ([S. 4591](#)). The No FAKES Act received broad bipartisan support, with Members emphasizing the need to protect individuals from the growing harms posed by deepfakes generated by artificial intelligence (AI). While lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agreed that federal protections are necessary, several Republican Members stressed the importance of ensuring the bill does not infringe upon First Amendment protections.

***Member Toplines:*¹**

Chair Chuck Grassley (R-IA): Grassley voiced support for the nominees under consideration, describing them as highly qualified and possessing a longstanding commitment to the rule of law. He also expressed support for the three bills before the committee, highlighting the No FAKES Act ([S. 4591](#)) as a bipartisan effort to protect individuals from the unauthorized use of AI-generated digital replicas.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI): Whitehouse criticized the Committee's oversight of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and raised concerns about several controversies involving DOJ leadership, including the handling of records related to Jeffrey Epstein. He argued that Congress has a responsibility to investigate these matters and expressed concern that failing to do so would weaken Congress's oversight role.

Legislation Considered:

NO FAKES Act of 2026 ([S. 4591](#))

I. Member Toplines:

- Sen. **Chris Coons** (D-DE) argued that advances in generative AI have created an urgent need to protect individuals from unauthorized use of their voice and likeness. He emphasized that the bill would establish a federal right allowing Americans to control and protect their digital replicas while providing mechanisms to remove unauthorized deepfake images and hold online platforms accountable. Coons also stressed that the bill was carefully crafted to balance these protections with First Amendment considerations, preserving exceptions for parody, satire, news reporting, and other protected forms of expression.
- Sen. **Marsha Blackburn** (R-TN) emphasized that a uniform federal framework is needed to protect Americans from the growing threat of

¹ Opening statements were not available online at the time of this memo's distribution.

unauthorized AI-generated deepfakes. She maintained that the bill would safeguard individuals' rights to their voice and visual likeness while establishing clear responsibilities for online platforms to address harmful content. She highlighted the bill's effort to balance intellectual property protections with First Amendment concerns, noting that commentary, criticism, satire, parody, and news reporting would remain protected

- Sens. **Mike Lee** (R-UT), **Ted Cruz** (R-TX), and **Eric Schmitt** (R-MO) expressed support for the bill but raised concerns about its potential impact on free speech and First Amendment protections. While all three Senators support advancing the bill out of Committee, they argued that additional revisions are needed to ensure the legislation does not restrict free speech before it is considered on the Senate floor.
- Sen. **Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN) expressed support for the bill, arguing that the rapid advancement and accessibility of AI-generated content has created urgent challenges related to the unauthorized use of an individual's voice and likeness. Citing a personal experience with a deepfake, she emphasized that false content can mislead the public and damage reputations. She also stressed the importance of protecting intellectual property and creative works, contending that individuals should retain control over how their likeness and creative works are used.
- Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-CA) expressed support for the bill and commended its sponsors for their collaborative approach, noting that the legislation has evolved significantly through the negotiations process. He emphasized that additional revisions may be needed to ensure the bill is appropriately tailored to properly address the diverse range of entities affected, including digital platforms and content creators.
- Sen. **Peter Welch** (D-VT) voiced support for the bill, arguing that increasingly realistic AI-generated deepfakes pose a serious threat to the public's ability to identify fake content. He pointed to examples of unauthorized digital replicas being used to falsely attribute statements and positions to public figures, contending that federal protections are needed to address the growing misuse of AI-generated likenesses and safeguard individuals from reputational harm.
- Sen. **Adam Schiff** (D-CA) argued that although rapid advances in AI have driven significant innovation, they have also created new risks for creative professionals and everyday Americans alike. He expressed support for the bill, asserting that a federal framework is needed to protect individuals from being exploited online by generative AI.

II. Amendments:

- [Manager's Amendment EHF26528](#).
 - The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.

III. Final Vote on S. 4591: **Passed out of Committee by a voice vote.**