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Committee: House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
Event: Legislative Proposals to Strengthen Consumer Protection in a Changing Marketplace Hearing
Date: July 22, 2026

Executive Summary:

On Wednesday, July 22, 2026, the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing to consider 12 bills aimed at strengthening consumer protections and ensuring the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) have the necessary tools to address economic challenges. There was broad bipartisan support for modernizing consumer protection laws to address digital commerce, online fraud, and evolving technology markets. However, members differed on the appropriate scope of federal regulation and enforcement. The hearing reviewed the following legislation:

- Packaging and Claims Knowledge Act of 2025 (H.R. 6832)
- Recycled Materials Attribution Act (H.R. 7502)
- Nitrous Oxide Safety Act of 2026 (H.R. 7945)
- Defending Against Foreign Propaganda Act (H.R. 5956)
- Strategic Task Force on Scam Prevention (H.R. 5967)
- Transparency in Enforcement, Restricting, and Monitoring of Services (TERMS) Act (H.R. 3875)
- App Store Freedom Act (ASFA; H.R. 3209)
- Mitigating Automated Internet Networks for Event Ticketing Act (H.R. 2713)
- Short Term Rental Sex Offending Disclosure (H.R. 9708)
- BOSS and SWIFT ACT of 2026 (H.R. ___)
- Debt Settlement Disclosure Act (H.R. ___)
- Stop the Fraud Act (H.R. ___)

Member Toplines:[1]

Full Committee Chair Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02): Guthrie emphasized the Committee's bipartisan efforts to advance consumer protection legislation while ensuring regulations do not stifle innovation or economic growth. He further expressed support for both the TERMS Act (H.R. 3875) and the ASFA as measures intended to increase transparency and competition in digital markets.

Subcommittee Chair Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12): Bilirakis highlighted the FTC's longstanding role in combating unfair and deceptive practices and promoting competition. He underscored the CPSC's responsibility to protect consumers from unsafe products, particularly the growing influx of imported goods from China. Bilirakis pointed to legislation addressing misleading recyclability claims, online platform

[1] The opening remarks from Full Committee Chair Guthrie, Ranking Member Schakowsky, and Rep. Dingell were unavailable at the time of this memo's distribution.

transparency through the TERMS Act, and enhanced enforcement against unsafe products and foreign companies, framing the package as part of Congress's broader effort to modernize consumer protection and strengthen oversight of the digital marketplace and global supply chains.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-09): Schakowsky argued that the administration has weakened the FTC's ability to protect consumers and emphasized the need for strong consumer protections to address evolving challenges in the digital marketplace.

Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA-03): Trahan strongly advocated for the bipartisan ASFA, arguing that Apple and Google maintain an app store "duopoly" that limits competition, increases prices, and reduces consumer choice. She stated the bill would allow alternative app stores, payment systems, and greater developer access while preserving security. Trahan rejected claims that competition would undermine cybersecurity.

Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-06): Dingell emphasized the need for stronger consumer protections in the live event ticketing marketplace. She highlighted widespread consumer frustrations with opaque pricing, hidden fees, rapid sellouts, unclear ticket availability, and confusing resale practices. Dingell expressed support for the BOSS and SWIFT Act, noting that it would improve transparency and fairness in ticket sales.

Witness Toplines:

John Hewitt, Senior Vice President, Consumer Brands Association: Hewitt focused his testimony exclusively on packaging and recycling legislation, highlighting consumer expectations with the manufacturing community's desire to meet them.

Celia Winslow, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Financial Services Association: Winslow concentrated on debt settlement disclosures and fraud prevention legislation. She emphasized that consumers facing financial hardship should receive clear, transparent information about debt settlement services to help them avoid scams and make informed financial decisions.

John Breyault, Vice President, Public Policy, Telecommunications, and Fraud, National Consumers League: Breyault stressed that consumers need stronger protections against deceptive ticketing practices, hidden fees, online scams, and fraud through robust FTC enforcement and greater marketplace transparency. He spoke in support of the BOSS and SWIFT Act.

Daniel Castro, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF): Castro expressed support for the TERMS Act, stating that greater transparency around online platform moderation policies would benefit consumers by quickly removing fraudulent accounts, Chinese influence operations, and listings for dangerous or illegal goods without advance notice. He argued that weakening app store security requirements could expose consumers to greater cybersecurity and privacy risks.

Major Takeaways:

TERMS Act ([H.R. 3875](#))

- The TERMS Act received relatively limited discussion but was generally viewed favorably. Bilirakis noted the legislation's importance in addressing misleading recyclability claims through online platform transparency against unsafe products and foreign companies such as China.
- Rep. **Craig Goldman** (R-TX-12), the bill's sponsor, emphasized that the legislation would increase transparency by requiring online platforms to disclose their terms of service, moderation policies, and enforcement decisions.
    - Castro expressed support for the bill's transparency objectives but argued its seven-day advance notice requirement should include broader exceptions allowing platforms to immediately remove fraudulent accounts, hijacked accounts, Chinese influence operations, listings for dangerous or illegal goods, and other urgent threats without prior notice.
- Goldman questioned Chinese online marketplaces.
    - Castro stated that weaker enforcement against counterfeit and dangerous goods gives Chinese platforms an advantage over U.S. companies that invest heavily in consumer protections.
    - Winslow argued consumers should receive clear upfront disclosures about debt settlement services, credit score impacts, the time required to resolve debt, and the possibility that settlements may never occur.

App Store Freedom Act (H.R. [H.R. 3209](#))

- Rep. **Kat Cammack** (R-FL-03) argued that Apple and Google exercise monopoly-like control over mobile app distribution. She noted that Apple's iOS and Google's Android power more than 99 percent of U.S. smartphones.
    - As dominant market actors, Apple and Google dictate marketplace rules, restrict competition, and charge developers commissions of up to 30 percent.
    - Cammack framed the ASFA as a pro-competition, pro-consumer bill that would expand consumer choice through alternative app stores, sideloading, and third-party payment systems — strengthening current systems that have failed to stop scams, malware, AI "nudify" apps, and Chinese-linked VPNs.
    - Both Trahan and Cammack emphasized the bill's potential consumer savings.
- Cammack criticized testimony from Castro and the ITIF, noting that Apple and Google financially support ITIF and arguing the organization's testimony overlooked the need for competition to improve consumer protections.
- Rep. Cammack cited multiple examples of alleged failures affecting consumers and entered several documents into the hearing record to support these claims, including a coalition letter of support from the Little Tech Association endorsing ASFA.

- Castro argued that weakening Apple’s and Google’s control over app distribution could expose consumers to greater cybersecurity risks by reducing the companies’ ability to screen applications before they reach users.