House Telecommunications Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Wireless Privacy Issues

February 6, 1997

Supporting Documents

On Wednesday, February 5, 1997, the House Telecommunications Subcommittee held a hearing to consider cellular privacy issues. CDT Executive Director Jerry Berman, along with FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert Litt, Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association President Thomas Wheeler, and others testified before the panel. Highlights of CDT Executive Director Jerry Berman's testimony: - Preliminary findings of a Digital Privacy and Security Working Group (DPSWG) study of communications privacy, focusing on the effectiveness and coverage of ECPA, the implementation of CALEA, the potential of strong encryption technologies to protect privacy and security and prevent crime, and other issues. [The study was completed and released on June 5, 1997]; - Issues relating to the implementation of CALEA, including concerns about the FBI's latest capacity notice; and - Technical solutions to privacy, including the need for encryption policy reform. Rep. Billy Tauzin (R-LA), the Subcommittee Chairman, spoke strongly about the need for strong privacy protections in wireless data networks, and also announced that the House Telecommunicatinos Subcommittee will hold hearings on the Encryption issue in the comming months.

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