The FCC's Impressive Broadband Resume & Steps Congress Can Take to Connect All Americans

Today, the House Energy & Commerce Committee held an <u>oversight hearing</u> of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and its work to deploy essential broadband access across the country.

Why it matters: Private investment in America's broadband networks have enabled it to <u>lead the world</u> in network capacity despite the massive shift to online work, school, and commerce.

According to a Gallup <u>survey</u>, the number of Americans telecommuting doubled from 31% in March 2020 to 62% in April. While networks in other countries needed traffic to be <u>slowed down</u> to prevent collapsing, the FCC's regulatory framework for the internet helped foster America's network resiliency.

What's next: The FCC can only do so much with its authority to bridge the digital divide. It's now time for Congress to step up and provide for urgent short-term needs like funding broadband mapping and helping disconnected students. Such necessary steps will equip Congress to meet the task of undertaking a robust national strategy to connect all Americans.

–Jordan Crenshaw, Executive Director and Policy Counsel, C TEC

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