

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Executive Business Meeting
June 26, 2014**

On our agenda today are two pieces of bipartisan legislation. The first is a straightforward bill to reauthorize expiring elements of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act (STELA).

STELA ensures that satellite customers who cannot otherwise receive broadcast television content over-the-air have access to these signals. This issue is important to rural areas like Vermont and Iowa. I am pleased to be working with Senator Grassley on this bill. Senator Durbin has a noncontroversial amendment that we will consider as we aim to report the bill out of Committee today.

I have also partnered with Senator Grassley on legislation to restore consumers' right to unlock their cell phones, so they can take their phones to a new wireless network. The bill reinstates a 2010 rulemaking by the Librarian of Congress so that owners can unlock their cell phones without running afoul of our copyright laws. It also directs the Librarian of Congress to consider, in its next rulemaking, whether other wireless devices, like tablets, should be eligible for unlocking.

Senator Grassley and I introduced this bill last year with a number of bipartisan cosponsors, both on and off this Committee. We have a Managers' amendment so that consumers who lack the technical know-how to unlock their phones can receive help doing so.

We also have Senator Udall's constitutional amendment on our agenda, which I understand will be held over.

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