

Floor Remarks
H.R. 6395 FY2021 NDAA
Amendment #89
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)

- M_. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act which would reform and codify the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP).
- This amendment mirrors the bipartisan, House-passed, FedRAMP Authorization Act (H.R. 3941), which I coauthored with current White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows.
- FedRAMP standardizes security requirements for the authorization and ongoing cybersecurity assessments of cloud services for information systems across the federal government to help agencies more quickly adopt cloud technologies.
- The FedRAMP Authorization Act helps reduce duplication of security assessments and other obstacles to agency adoption of cloud products by establishing a “presumption of adequacy” for cloud technologies that have received FedRAMP certification.
- This presumption of adequacy means that the cloud service offering has met baseline security standards established by the program and should be considered approved for use across the federal government.
- The bill would also facilitate agency reuse of cloud technologies that have already received an authorization-to-operate by requiring agencies to check a centralized and secure repository and, to the extent practicable, reuse any existing security assessment before conducting their own.
- The bill requires that GSA work toward automating their processes, which will lead to more standard security assessments and continuous monitoring of cloud offerings, and increase the efficiency for providers and agencies.
- The bill establishes a Federal Secure Cloud Advisory Committee to ensure dialogue among GSA, agency cybersecurity and procurement officials, and industry for effective and ongoing coordination in acquisition and adoption of cloud products by the federal government.

- Finally, the bill authorizes the program at \$20 million annually, providing sufficient resources to increase the number of secure cloud technologies available for agency adoption.
- We have worked with the Office of Management and Budget, GSA, industry stakeholders, and our minority counterparts to ensure that the bill makes needed improvements in the FedRAMP program and gives the program flexibility to grow and adopt to future changes in cloud technologies.
- In 2019, 13 agencies reported to GAO that they achieved at least \$291 billion in savings from increasing their investments in cloud technologies. I hope we can continue to advance the bipartisan FedRAMP Authorization Act to reform and codify a vital program many agencies rely upon to provide secure cloud computing solutions, a fundamental component of many IT modernization efforts.
- M_ Chair, I yield back.