

Floor Remarks
H.R. 6395 FY2021 NDAA
Amendment #93
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)

- M_. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to the FY2021 National Defense Authorization Act that would permanently authorize the teleworking program of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
- Since its launch, the program has significantly expanded the agency's teleworking capacity, while saving millions of taxpayer dollars.
- In fiscal 2019 alone, the telework program generated over \$123 million in savings, including avoided real estate costs and increased productivity, which generated \$52 million and \$49 million in savings, respectively.
- The current coronavirus pandemic has solidified the need to invest in and support telework opportunities for federal agencies.
- This amendment would enable thousands of federal employees to continue using this program and USPTO to continue saving millions of taxpayer dollars.
- I thank my colleague Mr. Hice who was a co-sponsor with me on this provision.
- M_. Chair, I yield back.