



# PROTECTING CONSUMERS

The United States has seen a decades-long trend toward greater concentration of power in the hands of large corporations. Too often, this results in higher prices, lower quality of products, and fewer choices for consumers. The Committee examined the state of competition in the health care and wireless markets and launched a special bipartisan investigation into the digital technology industry to determine how these companies have used their market power and how consumers and workers have been affected by growing concentrations of power.

The Committee also considered legislation to subject oil cartels, which raise gas prices for consumers, to antitrust liability and legislation to prohibit forced arbitration provisions, which deprive consumers of their right to access the courts when they have a dispute with a company. Other legislation included measures to protect children from dangerous e-cigarettes and to combat doping in international sports competitions.



## COMMITTEE WORK

H.R. 1423, the “Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal (FAIR) Act” [Marked Up, Passed House]

H.R. 3942, the “Preventing Online Sales of E-Cigarettes to Children Act” [Marked Up, Passed House]

H.R. 835, the “Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act of 2019” [Marked Up, Passed House]

H.R. 7036, the “Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Permanent Extension Act” [Passed House]

H.R. 948, the “No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2019 (NOPEC)” [Marked Up]

Hearing: The State of Competition in the Wireless Market: Examining the Impact of the Proposed Merger of T-Mobile and Sprint on Consumers, Workers, and the Internet

Hearing: Diagnosing the Problem: Exploring the Effects of Consolidation and Anticompetitive Conduct in Health Care Markets

Hearing: Justice Denied: Forced Arbitration and the Ero-

sion of our Legal System

Hearing: Online Platforms and Market Power, Part 1: The Free and Diverse Press

Hearing: Online Platforms and Market Power, Part 2: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Hearing: Online Platforms and Market Power, Part 3: The Role of Data and Privacy in Competition

Hearing: Online Platforms and Market Power, Part 4: Perspectives of the Antitrust Agencies

Hearing: Antitrust and Economic Opportunity: Competition in Labor Markets

Field Hearing: Online Platforms and Market Power, Part 5: Competitors in the Digital Economy

Hearing: Online Platforms and Market Power, Part 6: Examining the Dominance of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google

**Spotlight:** Many businesses use forced arbitration clauses, buried deep in the fine print of take-it-or-leave-it consumer contracts for everyday products such as cell phones, credit cards and home mortgages. Forced arbitration enables companies to evade the court system, where plaintiffs have far greater legal protections, and hide behind a one-sided process that is tilted in their favor. H.R. 1423, the “Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal (FAIR) Act,” which passed the Committee and the House of Representatives with bipartisan support, would prohibit forced arbitration in consumer, employment, civil rights, and antitrust disputes. This important legislation preserves a bedrock principle in this country: that all Americans deserve their day in court.