

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20580

Prepared Remarks of Chairman Joseph J. Simons¹
Hearing on “Oversight of the Federal Trade Commission: Strengthening
Protections for American’s Privacy and Data Security”

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consumers and maintain competition in most sectors of the economy. On the comp

examples of our vigorous enforcement program include cases like Impax

² and AbbVie³ where

we successfully attacked anticompetitive conduct by pharmaceutical companies, achieving a

\$448 million judgment in the latter case. We also recently filed an important case against

Surescripts, a health IT company with a monopoly over prescribing.⁴ The Bureau of

¹ These remarks reflect my own views. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission or any other

Competition has launched our Technology Task Force, which is dedicated to enforcement with respect to high tech platforms.⁵

data security legislation, enforceable by the FTC, which grants the agency civil penalty authority, targeted APA rulemaking authority, and jurisdiction over non-profits and common carriers.

Irrespective of any new legislation, we will continue to use every tool currently at our disposal to address consumer harm, including authorities Congress has given us like the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and the Safeguards Rule. We have aggressively pursued privacy and data security cases, to date bringing more than 65 data security cases as well as more than 60 general privacy cases.⁹ For example, we recently brought cases against two companies whose allegedly lax security practices resulted in the breach of 8 million consumers' data.¹⁰ And in March, the FTC announced a record \$5.7 million civil penalty as part of its settlement with video social networking app Musical.ly for collecting children's personal information online without first obtaining parental consent.¹¹

Finally, many of our privacy and data security investigations and cases involve complex facts and technologies and well-financed defendants. And as we told you in response to Chairmen Pallone and Schakowsky's resource letter, it is critical that the FTC have sufficient resources to support its investigative and litigation needs, particularly as demands for enforcement in this area continue to grow.

We are committed to using every resource to effectively protect consumers and promote competition, to anticipate and respond to changes in the marketplace, and to meet current and future challenges. We look forward to continuing to work with the Subcommittee and Congress, and I am happy to answer your questions.