

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)**  
**Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Executive Business Meeting**  
**July 10, 2014**

We have a full agenda this morning. We have five judicial nominees listed for the first time and I understand that Republicans want to hold them over so they will be held over. We will then consider our bipartisan bill to restore consumers' right to unlock their cell phones, so they can take their phones to a new wireless network. Senator Grassley and I introduced the Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act last year to reinstate a 2010 rulemaking by the Librarian of Congress so that consumers can unlock their cell phones without running afoul of our copyright laws. Our bill also directs the Librarian of Congress to consider whether other wireless devices, like tablets, should be eligible for unlocking.

The Managers' amendment we will consider shortly is cosponsored by Senators Grassley, Lee, Coons, Hatch, Whitehouse and Klobuchar. It has the support of consumer groups, wireless carriers, and Republican and Democratic leaders of the House Judiciary Committee. We should act swiftly to move this bipartisan, commonsense legislation.

After we report the legislation, we will turn to consideration of Senator Udall's constitutional amendment, as amended by Senator Durbin's substitute. In order to ensure that we will have a balanced debate on the constitutional amendment, I will recognize members for five minutes, alternating between the majority and minority. If members need additional rounds to get their point across, I will recognize them after all members present have had a chance to speak.

This is an important constitutional matter for all Americans, and I will have a separate statement on the amendment when we begin that debate.

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