



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Carr:

On January 14, 2026, Verizon Communications Inc. (Verizon) suffered a nationwide outage that necessitates congressional oversight.¹ Therefore, the Committee on Homeland Security requests a briefing as soon as possible but no later than January 23, 2026.

Verizon is the largest mobile network in the United States, and this outage affected tens of thousands of customers, including components of the federal government, with more than 2.3 million outage reports.² The scale and duration of the outage raises serious concerns and questions regarding the strength and security of the Verizon network. These concerns include reliability for emergency services and impact on both state and federal government operations. As of today, Verizon has yet to provide a sufficient public explanation regarding the cause of the outage.³

Per Rule X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy and has broad authority to oversee “all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.” Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Garbarino'.

ANDREW R. GARBARINO
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

¹ John Ruwitch, *Verizon just had a big outage. Here's what we know*, NPR (Jan. 15, 2026).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*; See generally *An update on our network outage*, Verizon (last update Jan. 15, 2026).

The Honorable Brendan Carr

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cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security