



# FAST FIVE

## Public Policy Insights

### North America

June 4, 2021

#### Featured

1. **Industry Scores a Win on Digital Trade.** Recently, the Senate voted 91 to 4 to include an amendment sponsored by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) on trade-related priorities (entitled the “Trade Act of 2021”). The legislation focuses on the importance of cross-border data transfers and data localization in GSP determinations, and on digital trade agreement negotiations to advance these cross-border data policy priorities. Specifically, the language contains a mandate for USTR to, “consider the viability and utility of negotiating digital trade agreements with like-minded countries and to what degree such agreements may provide an opportunity to address digital barriers, deter censorship, promote the free flow of information, support privacy, protect sensitive information, protect communications regarding human and worker rights, and promote digitally enabled commerce.”
2. **President Biden’s Budget Request Combines Traditional Budget with Special Items.** President Biden has released the Administration’s \$6 trillion budget request for Fiscal Year 2022, which combines Biden’s \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan, his \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan, and \$1.5 trillion in discretionary spending to fund federal agencies for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget proposal, which projects the effects of Biden’s legislative proposals, provides a detailed accounting of the Administration’s fiscal philosophy. The blueprint allows leaders in Congress to start negotiating government funding levels and spending bills to keep federal agencies funded past September.
3. **FSSCC Sends Letter in Support of Ingles and Easterly.** Working closely with the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council (FSSCC), we sent a letter to the respective leaders of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs endorsing the pending nominations of Chris Inglis for National Cyber Director and Jen Easterly to lead the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The letter noted Ms. Easterly’s combination of national security and financial services industry experience will be useful in understanding how CISA can further develop public sector and private industry collaboration.

#### Future Five

1. **Senator Ted Cruz Sponsors Bill to Ban Vaccine Passports.** As states across the U.S. are banning both government-run and private sector vaccine passports, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) has introduced legislation to stop the federal government from establishing COVID-19 passports or working with third parties to establish their own vaccine passports, such as airlines or other global entities.

Senators Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) and Mike Braun (R-IN) joined to co-sponsor the bill. The legislation imposes a five-year prohibition on any government vaccine mandate for vaccines first authorized by the FDA through an Emergency Use Authorization, which would include all three currently approved vaccines in the U.S.

2. **Senate Majority Leader Schumer Plans Ambitious June Schedule.** With the Senate set to reconvene on June 7, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer outlined plans to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and consider gun safety and LGBTQ equality legislation before Congress breaks for the July 4 recess. In the last week of June, Leader Schumer plans to vote on S.1, the For the People Act—voting rights reform legislation backed by many Democrats. The June work period will also advance President Biden’s Build Back Better economic agenda, including clean energy legislation and a bipartisan surface transportation bill. Although no votes are expected this month, Majority Leader Schumer also promised to, “pass comprehensive jobs and infrastructure legislation this summer.”
3. **President Biden Releases Budget Packed with Cyber Funding.** President Biden’s budget includes considerable funding for cybersecurity, including a topline figure of \$9.8 billion. It also sets aside \$750 million for “additional investments tailored to respond to lessons learned from the SolarWinds incident.” In addition, the budget includes \$58.4 billion for broader IT investments, including 4,531 IT projects at 25 agencies. At CISA, the budget requests roughly \$2.1 billion and roughly \$20 million to pilot a CISA-run Cyber Response and Recovery Fund, a recommendation of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission. Finally, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) would receive \$22.8 million from Biden’s budget, including \$100 million in new EAC-administered election security grants for states.
4. **Senators Introduce Bill to Boost Local Cybersecurity.** Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Rick Scott (R-FL) have introduced “The K-12 Cybersecurity Act.” The bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to study cybersecurity risks at K-12 schools and develop recommendations and tools to support schools to improve their cybersecurity. Following the completion of that study, the bill directs CISA to develop cybersecurity recommendations and an online toolkit to help schools improve their cybersecurity hygiene. These voluntary tools would be made available on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website along with other DHS school safety information.
5. **Industry Engages on Transatlantic Tech Priorities.** Ahead of the U.S.-EU Leaders’ Summit taking place on June 15, Mastercard is working with industry to prepare a one-pager outlining key transatlantic tech sector priorities. These include a structured dialogue for developing open, trade-facilitative approaches to digital policy, focusing on competition, data governance, platform policy, artificial intelligence, digital taxation, digital trade, and cybersecurity policy. In addition, we’re urging policymakers to take concrete actions to ensure the stability and reliability of transatlantic data flows and to assert transatlantic leadership in multilateral forums. Specifically, this includes a consensus on an enhanced EU-U.S. Privacy Shield successor agreement to provide a durable mechanism to enable the cross-border data flows that are essential to transatlantic business.