

Second, we pursue a policy and research agenda to improve agency decision-making. Last fall, for example, the Commission began its **Hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century**.² These public hearings are exploring whether broad-based changes in the economy, evolving business practices, new technologies, or international developments might require adjustments to competition and consumer protection law, enforcement priorities, and policy. The formal hearings will conclude shortly, and we expect to issue several reports by the end of the year. We also engage in advocacy by promoting competition principles in comments to state lawmakers and regulators,³ and we host initiatives like PrivacyCon, which explores cutting edge research on privacy and security topics.⁴

Third, the FTC provides important consumer education and business guidance to encourage informed consumer choices and compliance with the law. For example, the Commission has created a series of educational materials for older Americans: these include a series of materials that give details on scams that affect seniors;⁵ blogs to help identify these scams;⁶ and materials to empower older adults to educate others, like our “Pass it On” campaign.⁷ We also work to provide companies with resources on a variety of issues that affect businesses. For example, our “Cybersecurity for Small Business” campaign, a joint effort with

NIST, the SBA, and DHS includes a dozen need-to-know topics like ransomware, phishing, and tech support scams.⁸

In FY 2019, the FTC's enacted budget is \$309.7 million, and for FY 2020, the FTC is requesting \$312.3 million. The additional \$2.6 million requested is for expert witnesses and IT modernization. Expert witness contracts are an increasing need in light of the growing number of complex investigations and litigation in both competition and consumer protection matters. We also require additional resources to modernize our IT infrastructure, which includes moving critical applications from our aging on-premises data center to the cloud, including essential litigation support software.

We are committed to using our resources efficiently to 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 would be happy to answer your questions.

⁸ See Cybersecurity Resources for Your Small Business (Oct 18, 2018), <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/blogs/business-blog/2018/10/cybersecurity-resources-your-small-business>. These materials will soon be available in Spanish.