

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Hearing on “PPACA Pulse Check”**  
**August 1, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

For more than three years, we have heard mounting confusion and concern about how the health care law will impact coverage and costs for families and job creators. We have also heard about the law's red tape that has stifled job creation and threatened existing health care coverage for millions of Americans.

With just 60 days left until enrollment begins, my constituents want clear answers on the law's true costs. What will premiums look like for millions of Americans who thought they would be able to keep their current plan if they liked it? How much will American taxpayers spend over the next 10 years and what assurances are in place to ensure taxpayer dollars are protected? Will businesses stop hiring full-time employees and are we in a permanent transition to a part-time economy? I met with a number of my small businesses on Monday and the health law has been a mess for our job creators from top to bottom. Finally, with two months left until open enrollment in the exchanges begins, is HHS truly ready?

The recent decision by the administration to delay the employer mandate less than six months before full implementation makes us wonder if HHS is planning other delays or changes to the law. This decision raised serious questions about the administration's ability to implement this law and its authority to rewrite it – questions that the Treasury department did not sufficiently answer last week. The public's anxiety is real and escalating by the day, especially as they are left behind to endure the looming premium rate shock while businesses are shielded from reporting and penalties.

The president made a lot of promises to the American people both before and after the law's passage—and the promises to make health care more affordable and more accessible have fallen woefully short. This hearing provides an opportunity to further check on the status of those promises

This committee has conducted ongoing oversight of the law's implementation and since January of 2011; we have held dozens of hearings to ensure the American public has the information they need and today is no different.

With the clock ticking, it's time for the administration to keep its promises of transparency. Dodging simple questions like we saw last week will not work for our constituents who are already struggling with a flawed implementation.

Administrator Tavenner, your office agreed you would be available and willing to answer any and all questions related to the health care law. Thank you. Our constituents are desperate for information, and with 60 days left, there is no time left except for honest answers.

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