

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Tim Murphy  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
“PPACA Implementation Failures:  
Didn’t Know or Didn’t Disclose?”  
As prepared for delivery  
October 24, 2013**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

As Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, I’ve heard numerous promises from administration officials that ‘all was well’ with the healthcare law.

That wasn’t the case. Either these officials were shockingly unaware of what was happening inside their own agencies or deliberately misleading our committee — hoping this ‘train wreck’ would turn around.

Two weeks before enrollment began, HHS’s insurance czar told us that consumers could go online, shop, and enroll on October 1st. He didn’t equivocate. He didn’t hesitate.

So what happened between the Administration’s bravado and the launch of a clumsy system riddled with crashes, glitches, and errors?

Did breakdowns occur with contractors or were they told to do it this way?

Secretary Sebelius has admitted HHS didn’t do enough testing, but was her agency warned ahead of time that this was an issue?

Were the contractors able to work with each other and complete end-to-end testing?

In testimony today, QSSI states that the “late decision requiring consumers to register for an account before they could browse for insurance products” was a major contributor to the website’s October 1<sup>st</sup> crash and burn.

Who made this major decision just before launch? And were they trying to hide from the public the data that would show the healthcare law was causing massive premium hikes?

Was this site doomed to failure because contractors were told to build a flawed system by an agency that put politics before people’s healthcare.

Now, the President is committing untold amounts of money for a secret plan spearheaded by individual without technology experience to fix a technical problem.

But if 55 different contractors couldn’t successfully build, test, and run a web site in three years at a total cost of over \$500 million, why should we believe the Administration is capable of fixing it in two weeks?

You were supposed to design a web site that was supposed to compare costs and insurance plans. What the public got instead was a half-a-billion dollar clunker. We want to know – who messed up?

Given all these questions, Congress should press ‘pause’ on the “tech surge” and figure out what went wrong first, before throwing good money after bad, and forcing the public to use a broken site to buy a product they don’t want — or pay a new tax.

In addition to explaining why this disaster happened, I want an explanation on how this system will be fixed, what it will cost, and how long it will take.  
I yield back.