

Joseph R. Pitts
Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Committee

Markup of H.R. 3522, Employee Health Care Protection Act; H.R. 4701, the Tick-Borne Disease Research Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014; H.R. 4067, a bill to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014; and H.R. 5214, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for recommendations for the development and use of clinical data registries for the improvement of patient care.

July 29 and 30, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'll focus my remarks on today's four health-related bills.

First, we have H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act, introduced by Dr. Cassidy. H.R. 3522 would permanently grandfather all group plans issued by health insurers that were in existence in 2013, allowing consumers to keep the coverage they like and giving small businesses better options than ACA-compliant plans.

Second, we have H.R. 4701, the Tick-Borne Disease Research Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, introduced by Rep. Gibson. H.R. 4701 will help to improve understanding of and treatment for Lyme and tick-borne disease, by establishing a working group that will prepare a report for Congress and the Secretary that summarizes current federal activities and identifies the latest scientific advances. That report will then inform an effort by the Secretary of HHS to develop a strategic plan to improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease.

Third is a bill from Rep. Jenkins, H.R. 4067. This bill would continue to delay the enforcement of a 2009 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule that mandated direct physician supervision of outpatient therapeutic services, such as drug infusions, blood transfusions, and cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

And, finally, we have H.R. 5214, introduced by Congressmen Olson and Sessions, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for recommendations for the development and use of clinical data registries for the improvement of patient care.

I urge all of my colleagues to support these bills, and I yield back the remainder of my time.