

Energy and Commerce Member Day Hearing
Statement for the Record
Representative Doris Matsui
July 13, 2021

Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, thank you for holding this important hearing to allow Members of Congress to discuss their priorities that fall within our jurisdiction on the Energy and Commerce Committee. Our Committee has the one of the broadest and most consequential jurisdictions of any in Congress and the Members speaking today are a testament to the influence our Committee wields.

As the nation works to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must use this far-reaching jurisdiction to advance policies that create well-paying jobs, combat the climate crisis, and secure our shared economic future. Specifically, I would like to mention a few of my priorities before our Committee.

The healthcare landscape in America has been altered dramatically by the pandemic and we have an obligation to ensure everyone has access to healthcare when and where they need it, even after we have crushed the virus.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) have been on the front lines ensuring millions of Americans continue to receive medically necessary mental health and substance use disorder services while also monitoring for COVID-19 in this vulnerable population. CCBHCs are a successful, integrated, and modern way of delivering 21st century mental health care to patients with substance use disorder. CCBHCs will improve access to high-quality, integrated behavioral health care at a critical time and this Committee should take every opportunity to expand the existing Medicaid demonstration program.

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted millions of U.S. adults to defer primary and preventative routine medical care to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Providers quickly turned to telehealth to meet patients' needs and alleviate delays in care. As the pandemic continued, the expansion of telehealth proved to be particularly helpful in facilitating access to care to some of Medicare's more disadvantaged populations. I look forward to working with Members of this Committee and the Biden Administration to quickly and sustainably improve access to telehealth options.

To grow the home care workforce and help more older adults and people with disabilities live independently outside institutions, we must address the unmet need for home and community-based services (HCBS) by further extending the enhanced federal match. I recently joined a group including Chairman Pallone, and Representatives Dingell and Schakowsky to introduce the Better Care Better Jobs Act to invest in and expand access to HCBS for seniors and people with disabilities. I'm committed to advancing this bill as quickly as possible.

The Energy and Commerce Committee will also play a central role in addressing the defining issue of our time, combatting the climate crisis. One of the most important tools available to us is a continued commitment to reducing emissions from fossil fuels. This must include both rigorous

fuel economy standards and the pursuit of electric vehicles. I am committed to advancing the leadership of California in this space to tackle this issue head-on.

I've also worked hard to provide new tools to support communities take initiative in their efforts to combat the climate crisis. Residential tree-planting initiatives have been proven to reduce electrical bills and heat islands nationwide, especially in underserved communities. Fully funding the TREES Act is critical for energy equity and environmental justice and creates green jobs at the local level.

To sustain America's innovation economy in the 21st Century this Committee can support our efforts to win the race to 5G and beyond, increase the security of vital supply chains, and create well-paying jobs.

As the global economy becomes more interconnected, it is essential that the U.S. maintains the ability to produce the modern hardware on which our economy depends. In order for the U.S. to stay at the forefront of the strategically important semiconductor industry, we must ensure that we lead from research and development all the way to the assembly line. Fully funding the CHIPS for America Act, including the Department of Commerce grant program, as included in the FY21 NDAA will make needed investments in this essential hardware, allowing our domestic semiconductor industry to continue to innovate and thrive.

As an original cosponsor of the USA Telecommunications Act, I believe that Open RAN technology presents an important opportunity to help enable more flexible, efficient, secure, resilient, and intelligent mobile communication networks. That's why I am calling for at least \$1.5 billion for both the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund and the Multilateral Telecommunications Security Fund.

And, it is imperative that this Committee continue its strong track record of advancing legislation to clear vital spectrum for non-Federal commercial use. The U.S. lead the world in 4G and reaped the economic benefits. To win the race to 5G and beyond, we need a reliable pipeline of spectrum to allow the 5G ecosystem to flourish.

Thank you again for making time for this important hearing. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on and off the Energy and Commerce Committee to advance these important issues.