

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Anna G. Eshoo

Markup of 12 Bills

November 17, 2021

Today U.S. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18) delivered the following opening remarks at a full Committee markup of 12 bills out of the Health, Communications and Technology, and Consumer Protection and Commerce subcommittees:

Today, our Committee marks up 12 bipartisan bills, including 8 bills that were passed unanimously by the Health Subcommittee.

Three of the bills are children's health bills that seek to reduce the impact of stillbirth, newborn hearing loss, and birth defects.

We're also marking up the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act. I'm very proud we're delivering on our promise to Dr. Lorna Breen's sister and brother-in-law to move this important bill forward as quickly as possible.

We're also considering two bills to improve cardiac care and oral health literacy. The CAROL Act is named in honor of Carol Leavell Barr, the wife of Rep. Andy Barr, who died last year of sudden cardiac arrest. The bill funds NIH and CDC to support research and public education for valvular heart disease.

Another bill provides loan repayment for the allied health workforce to build a long-term pipeline of diverse healthcare workers across our country.

Lastly, we're considering major health legislation by Reps. Quigley and Fortenberry to advance treatments for ALS. The ACT for ALS is the most popular bill in the House with 328 bipartisan cosponsors. It allows more patients to receive experimental medicines through compassionate care programs.

As I mentioned at our Health Subcommittee markup, I remain deeply disappointed that we're not moving two important bills: Representative Raskin's Children and Media Research Advancement Act and Katherine's Law, named for former Congressman Rick Nolan's late daughter. We need to meet the urgencies of the moment we're in to make a major difference in the health of our nation and not allow ourselves to be taken off-course by small or specious concerns.

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The 8 health bills we're moving today represent significant progress to improve critical areas of our healthcare system and I urge my colleagues to support these bills and their amendments so we can move them to the full House as soon as possible.