

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

Markup of 6 Bills

May 18, 2022

Today, our Committee marks up 6 bipartisan bills.

First is the *Food and Drug Amendments of 2022* sponsored by myself and Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee, Mr. Guthrie. It includes the user fee agreements for drugs and medical devices. It also includes rider legislation to speed the discovery of more cures, improve patient representation in clinical trials, and enhance the FDA's ability to fulfill their vital mission of ensuring the safety, efficacy, and quality of America's drugs and medical devices.

The next bill is the *Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act* by Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers. This legislation reauthorizes more than 30 important programs from SAMHSA and HRSA to supply more resources and support for mental health care and substance use disorder across the country.

We'll also markup the *Kids CARE Act* from Representatives Hudson and Kuster to improve mental health screening for at-risk youths in the criminal justice system and in schools under the Medicaid programs.

I obviously support these bipartisan mental health bills, but I want to caution that our work to address the mental health crisis in our country is not done yet because we do not have a comprehensive plan for children and adolescents.

Today, we're moving forward the *ARPA-H Act*. This bipartisan bill has been a top legislative priority of mine and would establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency of Health as an independent agency within HHS. I thank the Chairman of the Full Committee and I thank the Republican Leader Rodgers for working with me on today's amendment in the nature of a substitute to ensure that the legislation creates a responsible ARPA-H with strict deliverables and clear lanes of authority to avoid duplication in our research programs.

Finally, we're marking up two important bills focused on medical research, and I will close on the note that this markup is the culmination of months of work by Committee members. I think that together, we've crafted a set of bills that are worthy of the American people.