

**CMR Opening Statement (5/18/2022)**  
**Energy & Commerce Full Committee Markup**  
*As Prepared for Delivery*

**INTRO**

I am so grateful for all the hard work that members of this committee have done to prepare for today's markup.

Thank you, Chair Pallone, Health Subcommittee Chair Eshoo, and Health Subcommittee Republican Guthrie for your leadership on these bills and solutions.

**FDA Act of 2022**

In the FDA Act of 2022, we are taking action to lower health care costs, spur more lifesaving innovation, secure our supply chains...

... and provide hope to patients in need of breakthrough drugs and therapies.

I think about all the advocates... and the hundreds of disease and rare disease groups who come to the People's House to share their stories with us.

They're have an extraordinary amount of hope in the promise of American innovation for new cures and access to treatments.

For them, we are committed to delivering the user fee agreements on time.

**Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder**

In addition, today we are advancing the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act.

This is the most comprehensive effort to date to revive hope and healing since the pandemic and economic and school shutdowns created a worsening mental health and overdose crisis in America.

Like many communities across the nation, my hometown of Spokane, Washington is recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness month...

... and the unique challenges they now face because of the worsening mental health crisis.

Parents are deeply worried about their children, who have been hurt by the collateral damage of stress, anxiety, depression, and isolation because of school closures.

Our message to the next generation must be that they matter. They are loved.

The Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act will help states and communities make a difference in people's lives to turn despair into hope.

That includes reauthorizing programs like the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act for youth suicide prevention...

... and programs to help people with severe mental illness.

## **MOMS**

I also want to bring special attention to how we are helping moms and pregnant women.

The Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act reauthorizes and expands grants to support the screening and treatment of maternal mental health and substance use disorders.

The substitute amendment we are considering today also includes a provision directing the Department of Health and Human Services to better coordinate across federal agencies to address maternal mental health.

Mental health crises and substance use disorders are drivers of pregnancy-related deaths.

By improving behavioral health outcomes, this bill will help save lives and support women at every stage of pregnancy and beyond.

## **ARPA-H**

We will also be considering a bill that authorizes the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, or ARPA-H.

Because Congress already appropriated money for ARPA-H, now is the time for us to act by providing critical directions and guardrails in order to set this agency up for success.

When we began this process, I had many concerns about the intent and mission of ARPA-H.

After extensive negotiations with the majority, I am happy to report that the amendment we will be voting on today will put ARPA-H on the right path with a targeted mission, increased accountability and transparency, and a laser focus on promoting American innovation.

## **CONCLUSION**

I look forward to our markup today. We have a lot of meaningful bipartisan bills before us.

This is the rich history of the Energy and Commerce Committee—plowing the hard ground to legislate on the most pressing issues before us as a nation.

Again, thank you to Chairman Pallone and all my colleagues for your hard work. Let's keep building on this and delivering results to the American people.