

## **Energy and Commerce Committee Member Day Statement**

**Rep. David Schweikert (AZ-01)**

*September 19, 2023*

Good morning, Chairwoman McMorris Rogers, brothers and sisters of the Energy and Commerce Committee, thank you for offering me the opportunity to speak to you today.

This Congress is failing future generations. It favors convenient talking points and superficial reform over difficult conversations around the dire condition of our fiscal trajectories. Federal healthcare and other entitlement spending continues to barrel our trust funds toward insolvency. Numbers that weren't anticipated to be hit for another several years are here today: over \$72,000 per second in borrowing, next year's interest close to \$1 trillion, non-defense discretionary up 154% using 1990 as a base year.

Despite this, I fail to see any level of urgency among my brothers and sisters. I am here today to propose real, moral solutions that can put our nation back on a path of fiscal health and economic growth. With your help, we can deliver results that address society's challenges by unleashing technology, addressing our growing obesity population, and accelerating critical research. I will include for the record, interested Members, and their staff a series of articles highlighting the applicability of these solutions.

One of my top priorities of this Congress is passage of H.R. \_\_\_\_, (DART). Currently, the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) agencies leverage their own data extensively and lack effective processes for data sharing. The bill would require inter-agency data sharing by authorizing the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish a data system, and deploy off the shelf artificial intelligence technology, with the Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency to develop treatments for diseases and conditions accounting for the highest Federal expenditures as well as obesity.

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and algorithmic medical breakthroughs are here. H.R. 207, the Advanced Safe Testing at Residence Telehealth Act of 2023 (A-START) would establish Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, and Veteran Affairs demonstration programs to test the efficacy and full-potential of modern telehealth tools. Under A-START, patients will have access to FDA approved technology and devices such as remote patient monitoring, wearables, diagnostics, tests, software as a medical device (SaMD), and more from the comfort of their home.

Last week, I had the honor of hosting alongside Speaker McCarthy a roundtable of stakeholders working on Valley Fever. Now more than ever, the Valley Fever Task Force remains laser-focused on bringing awareness and streamlining resources to deliver a cure that provides much-needed relief to families, friends, and beloved pets, such as my dog, who have suffered from this terrible disease for far too long.

In addition to Valley Fever, I would also be remiss to not include my advocacy for safer pet labeling requirements and effort to pass H.R. 617, the Paws Off Act of 2023. This legislation would initiate simple rule-making and forbid the sale of food that contains xylitol unless the food's label contains a warning about the toxic effects of xylitol for dogs if ingested.

These solutions are moral, and they deserve the committee's full attention. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, I yield back the balance of my time.