

Opening Statement for the Honorable Gus Bilirakis

Full Committee Markup

June 12, 2024

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be brief, but I want to reiterate our commitment to work towards a strong bipartisan resolution on the pediatric rare disease package we put together at Subcommittee, under the Give Kids A Chance Act. While I am disappointed that we couldn't consider that legislation here in today's Full Committee markup, I remain optimistic that we will be able to notice and vote out as strong of a bipartisan showing as possible in the next markup we schedule. I'm fully committed to continuing to negotiate and work out an agreement with my friend and colleague, Rep. Eshoo, and I thank her for her good faith efforts thus far.

I know we both care about this issue greatly and want to ensure we are incentivizing new treatments and cures for children with rare diseases and cancers. We must move forward quickly to reauthorize the rare pediatric Priority Review Voucher which expires in September. I also want to thank the fellow co-leads on that bill, Reps. Trahan, Barragan, and Burgess, for their steadfast support and commitment to get this across the finish line. In the interim, we have great policies on the agenda today, including the Accelerating Kids Access to Care Act, the SPEAK Act, and SHINE for Autumn Act among many others. I thank the Chair for putting together this markup and look forward to supporting all these bills out of Committee today. I yield back.