

Committee on Energy & Commerce
Member Day Hearing
December 12, 2025
Congressman Addison McDowell

Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, and Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee:

Thank you for holding this Member Day hearing and for the opportunity to submit a statement. As the Committee prepares for a busy and impactful 2026, I wanted to highlight a few key bills that address important issues for my constituents in North Carolina's sixth district.

H.R. 6364 - Kidd's Stuttering Act:

Currently, one in twenty children across the United States is impacted by some form of stuttering. Childhood-onset stuttering typically begins between the ages of two and five years old, and twenty percent of those cases persist into adulthood. Stuttering can be treated with speech therapy, but many stuttering conditions are not diagnosed. Even when they are diagnosed, they are not covered under federal insurance plans.

Earlier speech therapy intervention leads to a higher rate of recovery. With this in mind, I was proud to work with my friend and former NBA player, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, to introduce the *Kidd's Stuttering Act*. This bill would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to add stuttering to the list of mandatory health screenings required during Well-Child visits for children between ages two and six years old, and it would mandate coverage for speech therapy for stuttering under Medicaid and CHIP at the minimum level of coverage provided for other speech services in a state.

This bill strengthens our chances of identifying speech fluency issues early-on, and I hope I can count on this committee's support of this important, bipartisan legislation.

H.R. 6152 – Foreign Robocall Elimination Act:

Targeted robocall scams affect millions of Americans every month – with scammers trying to steal Social Security numbers, banking information, or anything else they can use to take advantage of Americans across the country. This is especially true during this time of year because scammers often

capitalize on the holiday season when people are shopping, giving charitably, or traveling more often. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has previously estimated that eliminating illegal scam robocalls would provide a public benefit of billions of dollars annually.

I worked with Representatives Greg Steube, Kelly Morrison, and Jimmy Panetta to introduce the *Foreign Robocall Elimination Act*. This bill is championed on the Senate side by Senators Ted Budd and Peter Welch. Previous legislation like the Pallone-Thune TRACED Act, which was signed into law in 2019, empowered the FCC and telecommunications companies to implement call authentication technologies that could more easily identify and trace back illegal, spoofed calls. The *Foreign Robocall Elimination Act* builds on the success of the TRACED Act by continuing to harden our telecommunications infrastructure against foreign scammers.

Specifically, my bill creates an interagency task force comprised of government and private-sector representatives to evaluate the ongoing pervasiveness of illegal, foreign robocalls and to make suggestions to Congress and the Justice Department on how to improve our federal response to these scammers. This bill also extends the Industry Traceback Group's (ITG) renewal period which will allow them to continue identifying the perpetrators of illegal robocalls.

H.R. 4342 – Clarity for Opioid-Use Reduction and Expenditures (CURE) Act:

I also introduced the *CURE Act*, which is designed to create additional accountability and transparency in federal opioid response programs.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that subrecipients of federal opioid grants such as those under the State Opioid Response (SOR) and Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) programs, are not currently required to report how taxpayer dollars are spent. This lack of oversight has created a blind spot in how hundreds of millions of dollars intended to fight fentanyl and opioid abuse are actually being used. This opens the door to waste, fraud, and abuse.

My bill creates more transparency by requiring subrecipients of opioid treatment grants to report on the end use of funds and directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to regularly report grant data to Congress to improve program oversight and restore public confidence in the

administration of vital health grants. Specifically, it amends the 21st Century Cures Act to improve the administration, oversight, and impact of opioid use disorder grants by addressing data collection gaps, enhancing information sharing, and reducing administrative burdens on grant recipients.

Without subrecipient data, the federal government loses visibility and control over large parts of its funding, increasing financial and operational risks and reducing the effectiveness of programs meant to serve the public. The *CURE Act* reinforces federal efforts to combat the opioid epidemic and crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse head-on. By closing concerning loopholes in grant tracking, we will ensure resources support treatment, prevention, and recovery efforts in communities hardest hit by this crisis.

H.R. 1361 – Collision Avoidance Systems:

I serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where we will soon begin developing legislation for a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization. In that effort, I strongly believe Congress should focus on pragmatic solutions to improve roadway safety while preserving consumer choice.

That is why I was proud to cosponsor H.R. 1361, the *Collision Avoidance Systems Act of 2025*. This legislation addresses a narrow but important regulatory issue involving pulsating brake lights. This technology has been used for decades and has demonstrated clear benefits in preventing rear-end collisions, but uncertainty surrounding vehicle safety standards have created liability risks for dealerships and consumers – limiting access to an otherwise affordable safety enhancement. The *Collision Avoidance Systems Act* requires the Department of Transportation to finalize regulations on the use of pulsating brake lights in order to reinforce a data-driven approach to roadway safety innovation.

Improving safety on our roads does not always require sweeping mandates or costly programs. Sometimes it is as simple as removing unnecessary barriers so that effective solutions can continue to be used, and this bill does exactly that.

This bill is currently dually referred to the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. As a member of the latter, I look forward to working with

my friends and colleagues on this committee to produce a Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill that advances policies to save lives, support innovation, and respect consumer choice.

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I thank you for your time and attention to these issues, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to advance this critical legislation in the upcoming session of Congress.