

Written Testimony, Representative Rich McCormick (GA-07)

FDA's Removal of Animal- Derived Desiccated Thyroid Extract Products from the Market

- Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. • I'd like to highlight an urgent issue that could affect 1.5 million Americans.
- On August 6, 2025, the FDA sent a Notice to Industry with the intention to remove animal-derived Desiccated Thyroid Extract (DTE) products from the market by August 2026.
- This announcement and subsequent statements have created significant confusion and uncertainty for health-care providers, patients, and domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers.
- This action would hurt patients who depend on animal-derived DTE as a treatment option for hypothyroidism and threatens jobs in my district.
- There are at least 2 current DTE manufacturers diligently working on FDA approval of their products as biologics, but the efforts and investments of these approvals will not result in an approved DTE product by August 2026.
- It is essential for FDA to issue follow-up guidance that provides a clear and constructive path forward that continues enforcement discretion through approval for DTE manufacturers who are doing the right thing.
- Such guidance is needed to protect patient access, preserve domestic investment and operations, and help achieve FDA's goal of a first-ever approved DTE product.
- DTE medications should remain on the market until an FDA-approved product is available to patients.
- I encourage the Committee to direct the FDA to ensure relevant stakeholders are being engaged as it prepares follow-up guidance.
- I am ready to assist in coordinating those conversations to ensure patients have access to this life-saving medication.

H.R. 742- PROTECTS Act

- Also, I'd like to discuss one of the first pieces of legislation I introduced when I came to Congress, H.R. 742 - the PROTECTS Act.
- This bill prohibits federal funds from being used towards gender transition procedures and was reintroduced in January.
- This bill is the most comprehensive prohibition on federal funds being used for gender-altering surgery and ensures that Doctors who are performing procedures on patients with puberty or chromosome abnormalities are still able to provide care
- 70% of Americans are strongly opposed to minors undergoing such life-altering treatments before reaching cognitive and emotional maturity.
- Naturally, these same Americans would not want to see their tax dollars going to such a practice.
- Considering we'll be voting on some legislation on this same topic next week, I'd love to work with this committee to advance H.R. 742 through regular order.
- Thank you, and I yield the remainder of my time.