

Statement of Representative Eric Sorensen
House Committee on Energy and Commerce Member Day
December 12, 2025

Thank you, Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, for the opportunity to testify before the Committee today.

I'm here today to speak on several commonsense bills I've introduced before the Committee — legislation that lowers costs, protects consumers, and improves the well-being of families in my district and around the nation.

In Central and Northwestern Illinois, there's one issue that I hear about the most. And I learned about it **before** I was a member of Congress: it's the cost of prescription drugs.

The pharmacist at my Jewel-Osco told me many years ago that the worst part of her job is seeing seniors push pill bottles back to her because they're too expensive.

And that happens because of the games Big Pharma plays to keep generics out of the hands of the people we serve.

My bill, the STOP GAMES Act, addresses their tactic.

STOP GAMES cracks down on citizen petitions filed **not to improve safety, but to delay competition.*

Often filed at the last minute, these duplicative and unsupported petitions stall generic approvals for years, all the while keeping prices high for patients, and keeping profits high for corporations.

STOP GAMES gives the FDA clear authority to quickly reject petitions whose primary purpose is delay and my bill will help put lower-cost, lifesaving medicines into patients' hands at the pharmacy counter.

Affordability challenges extend beyond health care. Many families face impossible choices each month: pay their utility bills or put food on the table.

No one should have to sacrifice their health or stability just to keep the tap running.

Access to clean, safe, and affordable water is not a luxury. It's a basic necessity for every household, every family, and every community.

My bipartisan Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act, known as LIHWAP, is a practical and compassionate solution to ensure that essential water services remain within reach for lower-income households.

LIHWAP is modeled after the highly successful Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, which provides block grants to states to ensure low-income and vulnerable populations do not lose access to heating and cooling services.

After its creation in 2021, LIHWAP helped more than 1 million households across the country, including nearly 80,000 families in Illinois afford their water.

Because LIHWAP was created as a temporary program, its funding expired in 2023, ending this critical assistance even as families continue to struggle.

By helping families stay current on their bills, we reduce shutoffs, prevent costly emergency interventions, and support utilities in maintaining the infrastructure we all rely on.

Of course, lowering costs isn't just about health care and utilities. It's also about protecting people from new threats that drain their wallets.

The Stephenson County, Illinois sheriff told me just a few weeks ago that scam robocallers and robo-texts are getting more sophisticated. With Artificial Intelligence, scammers have no limit to what they can do to trick seniors out of their savings.

I want to thank Ranking Member Pallone for his partnership and leadership on this issue.

My bipartisan QUIET Act would *double* the fines for AI-driven scams and require disclosure when AI is used in a call.

Robocalls hit a six-year high in 2025, so the time to act is now.

I urge this Committee to support the QUIET Act and help protect families across Illinois and the country.

The three bills I discussed: STOP GAMES, LIHWAP, and QUIET all reflect my commitment to lowering costs, protecting consumers, and improving the lives of everyday Americans.

And these should be able to bring this committee together, from both sides of the aisle. Thank you, and I look forward to working with the Committee to advance these important solutions.