

Member Day Hearing Testimony
The Honorable David J. Taylor (OH-02)

INTRO

- Thank you, Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, for giving me the opportunity to speak here today and thank you for all the hard work you do.
- I represent a very rural, Appalachian district in southern Ohio.
- And I'm here today to talk about two issues vitally important to the people who call southern Ohio home: broadband coverage and prescription drug prices.

Broadband

- From the beginning, my top priority as a Member of Congress has been expanding rural broadband.
- The district I represent is not only one of the most disconnected in the country, in terms of broadband, but also one of the most impoverished.
- I believe those two stats are unquestionably linked: those who have broadband access inherently have an advantage in the modern economy over those who don't.
- That is why it has been my top mission in Congress to try and get folks connected to broadband *now* – not in 10 or 20 years, but now.
- I come before the Committee to highlight one of the bills that I think could help achieve that goal for those who need it most.
- I was proud to lead the ***Bridging the Broadband Gap Act***, which I introduced earlier this year.
- This bill would simply add a provision within the \$42.5 Billion BEAD Program to allow states to offer discounted prices for low-income individuals for both the equipment and the monthly cost to get connected to satellite broadband.

Member Day Hearing Testimony
The Honorable David J. Taylor (OH-02)

- I believe fiber is the gold standard of broadband, but the people of southern Ohio cannot afford to wait.
- The cost of getting connected is oftentimes a major impediment, and this bill would help get people connected now while fiber is being built out.
- And as we continue to discuss affordability, allowing states to offer a discounted price would drastically lower costs in rural America.
- Several states will also have a significant amount of money left over after their initial planning, and this could be a great use of those dollars.
- I also want to flag that we've heard from our experts in Ohio the need for a skilled workforce to deploy all of this broadband funding, so I'm happy to work with the Committee to figure out the best path forward on that.
- I applaud the states already offering discounted prices under the BEAD Program.
- And I hope that by passing my bill, we could get all states to offer a program to make broadband more affordable while truly bridging the gap between now and when fiber gets to the home.
- I'm happy to work with this Committee and the Administration to make this a reality.
- I appreciate your consideration.

CONTINUE TESTIMONY ON THE NEXT PAGE

Member Day Hearing Testimony
The Honorable David J. Taylor (OH-02)

Drug Price Transparency

- And now, moving on to another important topic: price transparency in health care.
- It's no secret that prescription drug costs are through the roof.
- We've all seen drug commercials on TV. Probably lots of them. You see everything in those commercials from people flying kites to people running on the beach.
- The one thing you really never see though: the price of the drug.
- Because of a lack of price transparency, patients often don't know how much their prescription drug could cost them until they get rung up at the pharmacy counter.
- When drugs can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars, that's important information for a family to know.
- During the first Trump Administration, HHS recognized this issue needed to be addressed.
- To promote price transparency, HHS drafted a rule that would have required pharmaceutical companies to include the list price of the drug in advertisements.
- Unfortunately, a federal court blocked the rule, stating HHS did not have the authority to institute that requirement, and Congress would need to act.
- I believe we need to give them that authority. And that's why I introduced the ***Drug-price Transparency for Consumers Act***.
- This bill would do exactly what the first Trump Administration was trying to do: require direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertisements to include the list price of the drug.
- Polling shows that 88% of *Americans* support this policy. 88%.
- This policy is widely supported by both Republicans and Democrats... patients and providers... young and old.

Member Day Hearing Testimony
The Honorable David J. Taylor (OH-02)

- The price of health care shouldn't be a secret.
- Obviously, there's a lot of partisan divide right now on health care issues. And I get it, health care is a very important issue. It's an issue that Congress needs to get right.
- But I think requiring price transparency in drug advertisements is an issue we have wide agreement on in this country, and I hope we have an opportunity to make good on the people's wishes in this Congress.
- I thank Congresswoman Schakowsky (Shuh-cow-ski) for co-leading the bill with me, and I would love to work with you, Mr. Chairman, to bring about price transparency with this bill.
- Thank you, again, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member for giving me the opportunity to speak here today.
- I'm looking forward to me and my staff working with you all on these important issues.
- I yield back.