

Chairman Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement—Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Protecting Patients and Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars: The Role of CMS in
Combatting Medicare and Medicaid Fraud
March 17, 2026

As prepared for delivery.

Good afternoon, and thank you, Chairman Joyce, for convening this important hearing to examine how the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services safeguards taxpayer dollars and prevents fraud. I also want to thank Deputy Administrator Brandt for agreeing to appear before us today.

Medicare and Medicaid provide essential health coverage to millions of Americans, so when criminals exploit these programs, they do more than steal taxpayer dollars—they harm patients, undermine trust in the system, and divert resources away from the patients these programs are meant to serve.

Last month, this Subcommittee held a hearing with fraud experts who discussed common fraud schemes in Medicare and Medicaid, and programs that are particularly vulnerable to fraud, such as applied behavioral analysis for children with autism, non-emergency medical transportation, and substance use disorder treatment. There was also discussion about how transnational criminal organizations are increasingly involved in health care fraud. And we continue to see examples of this happening. For example, just last month, a Russian citizen was charged in an alleged \$3.4 million fraud scheme involving Medicare claims for durable medical equipment.¹

¹ Dalton Huey, *Feds allege \$3.4 billion Medicare fraud scheme tied to Russian citizen living in Austin*, KXAN (Feb. 2, 2026), <https://www.kxan.com/investigations/feds-allege-3-4-billion-medicare-fraud-scheme-tied-to-russian-citizen-living-in-austin/>; Brian New, *Russian-run Texas medical supplier at center of massive Medicare billing scheme, feds say*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 24, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/russian-run-texas-medical-supplier-massive-medicare-billing-scheme-feds-say/>.

Today's hearing provides an opportunity to examine how CMS is strengthening its efforts to detect fraud sooner, prevent fraudulent payments, and improve coordination with states and law enforcement agencies. It is also an opportunity to identify reforms that can further strengthen program integrity while protecting access to care for the millions of Americans who rely on Medicare and Medicaid.

I look forward to hearing from our witness today and learning how Congress can support the Administration's anti-fraud efforts moving forward.

With that, I yield back.