

**Opening Statement for Chairman Brett Guthrie
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
“State Medicaid Program Integrity: Examining Fraud Risks and Oversight
Deficiencies.”
June 25, 2026**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Good morning, and thank you, Chairman Joyce, for holding this important hearing. I also want to thank our witnesses for being here. I know that joining us today was not without challenges for some of you, and we appreciate your participation.

This hearing is about accountability and what all of us can do moving forward to strengthen Medicaid program integrity. We have a duty to do everything possible to protect the Medicaid program from fraud and preserve it for those who need it most.

Each state administers its Medicaid program and is responsible for making sure that fraud prevention and enforcement mechanisms are effective. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Fraud is not a victimless crime. Not only does it squander taxpayer dollars, but it harms vulnerable patients. Fraudsters are blatantly lining their pockets with taxpayer dollars, often at the expense of elderly, disabled, and young patients that are receiving substandard or no medical care.

Americans are tired of seeing their hard-earned money end up in the hands of criminals. For example, Paul Randall, a California man who recently pleaded guilty to \$270 million in Medicaid fraud, used the money he siphoned off from the Medicaid program to buy luxury cars and rare sports memorabilia, including Mickey Mantle rookie baseball cards and game-worn Kobe Bryant sneakers.

Similarly, in Ohio, law enforcement recently seized 14 luxury vehicles owned by defendants in a \$30 million Medicaid behavioral health fraud case.

Just this week, the Department of Justice announced the 2026 National Health Care Fraud Takedown, which charged 455 defendants with over \$6.5 billion in health care fraud. This Takedown was a collaborative effort between federal, state, and international partners, and included fraud schemes in Medicare and Medicaid. This is another example of how big this problem is.

Through more rigorous oversight and enforcement, we can stop these brazen criminal schemes and make the Medicaid program stronger, ensuring its stability for the future.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today about what is happening in their state's Medicaid program.

We are determined to work toward solutions that strengthen oversight and root out Medicaid fraud.

With that, I yield back.