

**Opening Statement of Chairman Fred Upton
Health Subcommittee Hearing on “Improving Predictability and
Transparency in DEA and FDA Regulation”
April 7, 2014**

Today the subcommittee will hear testimony on three bills that address important problems facing our country.

First, Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone are collaborating on H.R. 4299, the “Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act.” Their bill would provide more certainty around the Drug Enforcement Administration’s review of scheduling decisions for new drug products.

Second, Marsha Blackburn, Vice Chair of the Committee, is working with Representative Marino on H.R. 4069, the “Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act.” The bill would help establish a collaborative and coordinated approach to the prescription drug abuse crisis that is plaguing our local communities across the country.

Finally, today we will discuss H.R. 4250, which is co-sponsored by Ed Whitfield and John Dingell. Everyone seems to agree that the current system for approving sunscreen ingredients is broken. This bill would help provide a solution to the current backlog of sunscreen ingredients pending at the FDA.

I want to commend my colleagues for working together to develop these legislative solutions. We look forward to working in a bipartisan manner to perfect them so we can move them swiftly through the legislative process.

We have had a strong record of bipartisan success this Congress in our work to improve public health, and these bills further our efforts.

Thank you for holding this hearing. I yield the balance of my time to

_____.