

**Opening Statement of Chairman Fred Upton**  
**Health Subcommittee Hearing on “Examining Public Health Legislation to**  
**Help Patients and Local Communities”**  
**January 27, 2015**

In the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee established an impressive Record of Success with 51 bipartisan bills signed into law, many of which are now helping improve public health. Families and local communities expect us to work together to solve problems, and we look forward to using our prior success as a springboard to further boost the public health this new Congress. Today we will examine a half dozen bills that collectively will help our nation’s veterans, address the prescription drug abuse crisis, secure access to trauma systems, and improve the Controlled Substances Act.

First, we will hear testimony on a bill authored by Mr. Kinzinger. The Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act, passed by the full House in February 2013, would help military medics and those states with a shortage of Emergency Medical Technicians.

We also will discuss the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act led by Mr. Whitfield to help address the prescription drug abuse crisis.

We will hear testimony on two trauma bills led by Dr. Burgess and Ranking Member Green. The Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act was passed through the full House in June 2014 and would help support state and rural development of trauma systems. The second bill will reauthorize language from the Public Health Service Act to fund trauma care centers.

Finally, the Subcommittee will hear about two bills related to the Controlled Substances Act. The Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act, led by Chairman Pitts and full committee Ranking Member Pallone, would amend the CSA to improve and streamline the Drug Enforcement Agency's process for scheduling new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, led by Vice Chairman Blackburn and Reps. Marino, Welch, and Chu would help prevent prescription drug abuse, establish clear and consistent enforcement standards, and ensure patients have access to medications by promoting collaboration among government agencies, patients, and industry stakeholders.

I thank the witnesses for attending today's hearing, and I look forward to their testimony and recommendations as we begin to build upon our strong record of bipartisan success.