

**Statement of Congresswoman Lois Capps**  
**Health Subcommittee: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Reform**  
**May 14, 2015**

Thank you Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone for holding this markup and for all the work you and your staff have done to bring this bipartisan product to the subcommittee.

I am sorry I cannot be there today but I ask that my statement be included for the record.

Throughout my years in Congress, I have firmly believed that NIH funding is one of the most important investments we can make in our nation's health.

I am pleased to see that this bill takes an important step in strengthening funding for NIH by 10 billion dollars.

And I am also pleased this legislation supports the important work that NIH does in advancing medical research.

These advances have contributed to improved life expectancies and a greater quality of life for millions of Americans—something we can and should celebrate.

I want to highlight one issue that I discussed in the last subcommittee hearing that I am particularly pleased to see included in the bill, which is ensuring that children and elderly are included in clinical trials.

I would like to thank Representative Blackburn for also highlighting this important issue.

This provision would help ensure that not only will the number of children and elderly in studies be tracked but also that their age groups are distinguished and tracked as well.

For example, in children we know that treatments affect a 7 year old much differently than they affect a 17 year old and this should be reflected in NIH funded research.

Collecting more data on our children and elderly populations will allow researchers and providers to better understand the role age plays in how patients respond to medical treatments.

This will ultimately allow providers to tailor treatments to better fit the needs of their patients.

I thank the committee for working to address this issue.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my appreciation for the goodwill and collaboration we have seen throughout the process for this bill and hope it will continue as we deal with other issues before this committee.

It is clear that when we work together we can get things done.

I remain committed to doing just that.