

Rep. Joseph R. Pitts
Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Hearing
“Examining Potential Ways to Improve the Medicare Program”
October 1, 2015

The Subcommittee will come to order.

The Chairman will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Today’s hearing will consider three bipartisan legislative bills designed to strengthen the Medicare program.

H.R. 556, the Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act, sponsored by our colleague Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL) would add therapists (physical, occupational, and speech) to the list of providers allowed to transfer care for a Medicare patient in circumstances of illness, pregnancy, or vacation.

H.R. 1934, the Cancer Care Payment Reform Act, sponsored by the House Republican Conference Chairman Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (WA) establishes a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project to improve Medicare payments for cancer care.

Draft legislation authored by Rep. Greg Walden (OR) would make changes to documentation and face-to-face requirements for home health providers under the Medicare program.

Together these three bills continue the commitment this Congress has to strengthen the Medicare program and keep the promise for seniors – which was started earlier this year by permanently repealing and replacing the broken Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) – an effort spanning several years to enactment this past April.

I want to thank our witnesses for testifying today. They bring with them real world experience of problems in the Medicare program and I look forward to their testimony on these pieces of legislation.

Finally, I would like to commend the sponsors of these pieces of legislation for their efforts in bringing these various pieces of legislation forward.

I would now like to yield my time to _____.