

Rep. Joseph R. Pitts
Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Hearing:
“Examining Legislation to Improve Health Care and Treatment”
Wednesday, December 9, 2015 (10:00 AM)

The Subcommittee will come to order.

The Chairman will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Today’s hearing will examine several different legislative proposals that will address shortcomings in current law and reauthorize an important nursing training program.

H.R. 921, the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act, sponsored by the Health Subcommittee Vice Chairman Brett Guthrie (KY) clarifies medical liability rules for athletic trainers and medical professionals to ensure they are properly covered by their malpractice insurance while traveling with their athletic teams to other states.

H.R. 1209, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, sponsored by another Member of our Health Subcommittee Dr. Michael Burgess (TX) requires the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to designate maternity care health professional shortage areas [inside existing primarily care health professional shortage areas](#), and review these designations at least annually. The Department of Health and Human Services would also be required to collect and publish data on these shortage areas [to better ensure access to maternity care.](#)

H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act, sponsored by Rep. Lois Capps (CA) reauthorizes the current Nursing Workforce Development programs to continue nursing education at all levels, and provide additional support for nurses practicing in medically underserved communities.

H.R. 3441, the Accurate Education for Prenatal Screenings Act, sponsored by Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA) directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop, implement, and maintain programs to educate patients as well as health care providers on the purpose of cell-free DNA prenatal screenings,

the reasons for such screenings, what conditions may be detected, as well as the risks, benefits, and alternatives to such screenings.

H.R. 4152, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act, sponsored by Rep. Pete Olson (TX) expands immunity from civil liability related to the use of automated external defibrillator devices.

H.R. 4153, the Educating to Prevent Eating Disorders Act of 2015, sponsored by Rep. Renee Ellmers (NC), [yet another health subcommittee member](#), establishes a pilot program to test the impact of early intervention on the prevention, management, and course of eating disorders.

~~Today we have two panels, including. Additionally, we~~[We](#) will hear from a panel of experts and stakeholders as to their ideas and recommendations on these bills.

I will now yield to (name).