

Opening Statement of U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks, R-IN
Health Subcommittee Hearing on Patient Relief from Collapsing Health
Exchanges
February 2, 2017

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As we all know, current law requires individuals to buy government-dictated insurance. Instead, we propose giving people freedom from this mandate – it’s only fair.

Continuous coverage isn’t a new idea. It’s been discussed by reputable public policy organizations like the economic and political freedom-centered Hoover Institution and the free enterprise-focused American Enterprise Institute. This coverage incentive has also been contemplated in publications by Rand Corporation, Urban Institute, and others.

We don’t pretend that this is the only solution. But we’re confident that continuous coverage provides promise. This is why it’s part of our Better Way plan – our fairness agenda for helping patients get relief. And today, this placeholder provides the clearest signal yet that we’re working with patients and health care groups to draft language that balances important health status protections with necessary risk mitigation tools.

I look forward to the panelists’ expert feedback on the value of how this idea may help patients get – and keep – health coverage.