

Today the Subcommittee will review the implementation of critical components of the 21st Century Cures Act, a transformational law intended to modernize the nation's biomedical innovation infrastructure. Cures was signed into law in December of 2016, following a multi-year effort led by this committee to uncover opportunities to strengthen and streamline the process by which innovative medical products are discovered and made available to patients. I'd like to take this opportunity to commend our former Chairman, Fred Upton, as well as Representative Diana DeGette, for their unwavering dedication to getting this initiative across the finish line. I'd also like to recognize a very special guest who has been a part of this journey since the very beginning—Max, you are an extraordinary young man and we are so glad you could be here.

In our increasingly connected world where scientific innovation is outpacing government regulation, we have the potential to revolutionize medicine, and do more to reduce human suffering in the process. Over the course of two Congresses, members of this committee consulted with leading scientists and medical experts, patient and disease group advocates, and researchers and innovators across multiple sectors to find ways to accelerate a path to cures in America. We identified things the government could do to encourage innovation; and we also identified areas where government regulations and red tape were getting in the way of the revolutionary discoveries happening in labs across

America. These initiatives culminated in the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act. By increasing research collaboration, improving personalized medicine, investing in the next generation of young investigators, removing regulatory uncertainty, providing new drug development incentives, and modernizing clinical trials, Cures sought to maintain and enhance America's global status as the leader in biomedical innovation, and above all, save lives.

I am proud of this committee's work to identify opportunities to improve our health care system, and to advance legislative solutions in a thoughtful, responsible, and bipartisan manner. The 21st Century Cures Act ushered in the changes necessary to bring our laws into a modern era of medicine. Today we will hear from the officials at the helm of implementing the research and development provisions authorized in the new law—NIH Director Francis Collins, and FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb. I look forward to hearing more about how these solutions are being implemented to keep our Nation at the forefront of innovation, and most importantly to deliver hope to millions of patients living with untreatable diseases.