

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement
of
Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Gene Green
May 17, 2018

E&C Full Committee Markup on Opioids Legislation

I thank Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone for holding today's markup.

I appreciate the efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle to address this crisis and expand access to treatment for Americans suffering from substance abuse.

I am concerned that our committee has not identified any pay-fors for any of the opioids bills. Our committee must identify how we are paying for these authorizations before they are considered on the House floor. Otherwise, I fear our efforts will lead to cuts to Medicaid and other critical public health programs.

I am disappointed in the Majority's decision to not include my misuse and abuse legislation for today's markup, introduced earlier this week as H.R. 5803. This legislation would have simply clarified FDA's authority to consider a drug's potential for misuse and abuse as part of the approval process. This bill was introduced at the request of the FDA, received expert testimony in support during our March Health Subcommittee hearing, and passed the Subcommittee's markup on voice vote last month. This legislation should be given full consideration and included in the House's opioids package.

Thank you and I yield the remainder of my time.