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**Statement for the Record Submitted to the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee**  
**Hearing Entitled: The Future of Biomedicine: Translating Biomedical Research into**  
**Personalized Health Care**

Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Guthrie, thank you for holding today's Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing on the future of biomedicine. As a co-chair of the bipartisan, bi-cameral Personalized Medicine Caucus, I am pleased that the Committee is holding a hearing on this important topic.

Personalized medicine, also called precision or individualized medicine, is a cutting-edge field to help determine which medical treatments and procedures will work best for each patient, and has revolutionized outcomes for rare diseases, oncology, and pharmacogenomics. Physicians use diagnostic tests to identify specific biological markers, often genetic, that help determine which medical treatments and procedures will work best for each patient. By combining this information with an individual's medical records, circumstances, and values, personalized medicine allows doctors and patients to develop targeted treatment and prevention plans.

The Personalized Medicine Caucus broadens support for and knowledge of personalized medicine by enhancing public awareness of the field and advocating for policies in support of its advancement to benefit patients and the United States' health care system. Personalized medicine has the capacity to detect the onset of disease at its earliest stages, pre-empt the progression of disease, and, at the same time, increase the efficiency of the health care system by improving quality, accessibility, and affordability.

Genetic testing, specifically, is critical to diagnosing and preventing severe and rare diseases. Today, there are currently 75,000 different genetic tests that represent approximately 10,000 unique test types and cover more than 4,600 disorders. However, many of these tests are not covered by insurance providers and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has not made coverage determinations for many genetic tests. Instead, CMS allows Medical Administrative Contractors (MACs) and state Medicaid agencies to make their own coverage determinations. Many believe genetic testing will help realize a brighter future of healthcare, especially for children and younger Americans, but the realization of this future will be limited without increasing access to testing through insurance coverage.

That's why I introduced the *Precision Medicine Answers for Kids Today Act*, with Representatives Scott Peters and Tom Emmer, which would provide coverage for genetic and genomic testing for pediatric patients to study how this coverage improves the diagnosis of rare diseases. The bill was included in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures 2.0 Act, introduced by Representatives DeGette and Upton last month, and I urge my colleague to support this bipartisan effort to provide lifesaving research to diagnose and treat terrible diseases.

Thank you for your consideration.