

Congressman Buddy Carter
Opening Remarks
September 14, 2022 Subcommittee on Health Markup
As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Madam Chair, for holding this markup.

Today we are marking up legislation to increase patients access to care.

H.R. 3173, the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*, will make it easier for seniors to get the care they need and will ultimately improve health outcomes.

This legislation will modernize the prior authorization process in Medicare Advantage, which has led to patients facing unnecessary delays and denials of medically necessary care.

I am glad we are having this markup today, but I am also very frustrated.

I am frustrated because this markup is a missed opportunity to address the failures we are seeing from the Biden Administration.

Our state of the country is deteriorating with the lack of leadership from the White House.

One of the main failures of the Administration in the aftermath of the pandemic is not providing more specificity as to how to responsibly wind down the public health emergency.

We are seeing this time and time again, that there isn't much of a specific plan around how to transition out of this.

Just one example of this is the Medicare beneficiaries who began receiving oxygen therapy at home under a waiver.

I have over 1000 patients in my district alone who meet this criteria and don't know if they are going to be able to continue with their oxygen therapy once the public health emergency ends.

This continuity is critical for them, yet patients and providers are left wondering what the plan is.

We should be holding a hearing on this issue.

However, I look forward to discussing many of the important proposals before us today and I yield back.