

Congressman Brett Guthrie

Opening Statement

11.29.23 Health Hearing

As Prepared for Delivery

I'd like to thank our witnesses for being here today. This hearing could not be timelier, and, as our Committee and the Congress as a whole look at issues regarding artificial intelligence, it's important that we shine a light specifically on the role that AI could play in solving some of our most significant health care problems. These emerging technologies are already changing the way in which clinicians care for their patients and how researchers conduct clinical trials. As AI continues to drive innovation in health care, it is essential that Congress understands the meaningful benefits and any potential unintended consequences that these technologies could have. The potential benefits from artificial intelligence are seemingly without limit. Future technologies could help our health care system save lives by better predicting potential diagnoses and could also help us reduce redundancies in our system. We have already seen this play out in real time over the past several years and have watched previously unimaginable advances in health care as a result of generative AI. For example, there are already numerous success stories in using AI for pharmaceutical research and development to get treatments to market sooner. This was the case in the AI-assisted research by MIT scientists that found that the drug Halicin could be used as an effective antibiotic. Additionally, we now have multicancer screening diagnostic tools that use AI to help detect early-stage cancers, and AI is even being used in operating rooms to augment existing processes to improve patient outcomes.

This is not, however, to say that we should let the use of these technologies go without guardrails. Over the next several months and years policymakers and those in the health industry will need to answer some fundamental questions regarding the role we would like AI to play in our health care system and everyday lives.

To be clear, I am a strong supporter of the real possibilities AIs can bring to our health care system, and most importantly, to patients. We should give the technology the license to coexist alongside clinicians, patients, and innovators as well as regulators. We should also remain aware of how this technology is being used and ensure that patients data is not being collected, used, or sold without their consent. I look forward to the discussion today.