

Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Health
Examining Policies to Enhance Seniors' Access to
Breakthrough Medical Technologies
Thursday, September 18, 2025 – 9:45 AM

Thank you, Chairman Griffith. And thank you witnesses for being here today.

During the 118th Congress, this Committee carried out critical work on policies to bolster seniors' access to the latest breakthrough medical technologies and to reform Medicare coverage pathways.

Today we are continuing the conversation by examining several important policies that would enhance Medicare's coverage of FDA-approved Breakthrough Devices, allow for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection tests, and provide for commonsense reforms in the Medicare National and Local Coverage Determination processes.

In the last several years, we have seen tremendous advances in medical technologies that can change the trajectory of patients' outcomes for the better. With multi-cancer early detection tests, for example, we have an opportunity to identify early-stage cancers and begin treatment sooner, helping to improve cancer-related mortality rates and reduce the economic burden of later-stage cancer treatments.

Today's conversation is crucial because Medicare's decisions to grant, limit, or exclude items and services from coverage have direct impacts on seniors' care.

One of the policies we are considering today, the Ensuring Patient Access to Critical Breakthrough Products Act, would help address this issue by providing four years of transitional Medicare coverage for Breakthrough Devices.

Further, we will also discuss improvements to the Medicare National and Local Coverage Determination processes, with the policies we are considering today building on the Committee's work from last Congress, providing greater accountability at CMS and ultimately more confidence in this process for patients, providers, and innovators.

I thank the witnesses for their participation in today's hearing, and I look forward to the discussion.

Thank you, and I yield back.