

**Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement**  
**Subcommittee on Health**  
***Healthier America: Legislative Proposals to Improve Public Health***  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – 10:15 AM**

*As prepared for delivery.*

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

Today’s hearing looks at key programs that aim to improve access to care, support efforts to combat chronic conditions, and strengthen research opportunities for certain neurodegenerative diseases.

According to the CDC, we spend about \$4.9 trillion on health care costs annually—of that, approximately 90 percent goes toward chronic conditions.<sup>1</sup>

The Trump Administration has placed an emphasis on helping to mitigate chronic disease, and as part of our work to advance that shared goal, we will examine policies like the *Nutrition Education and Chronic Disease Prevention in Community Health Centers Act*, the *Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act*, the *School-Based Health Center Reauthorization*, and the *EARLY Act Reauthorization*.

We will also examine programs designed to increase access to lifesaving treatments.

For example, the *Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act* continues the flow of resources for the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, which provides assistance to patients who are in need of a bone marrow or cord blood transplant.

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, *Fast Facts: Health and Economic Costs of Chronic Conditions* (Aug. 8, 2025), <https://www.cdc.gov/chronic-disease/data-research/facts-stats/index.html>.

Nearly 30,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with ALS. This disease is devastating; it causes nerve cells to stop working and die, ultimately leading to paralysis. No one knows for sure what causes this condition, so we must continue to empower researchers to work to develop a cure.

The *ACT for ALS Reauthorization* will further advance the research initiatives and public-private partnership designed to accelerate treatments for ALS.

While there is more work to do, each of the bills we'll discuss today represent valuable steps forward towards a healthier America.

I want to thank all my colleagues who are leading the discussion on solutions to these many challenges and our witnesses for lending your time and expertise this morning.

I yield back.