

**Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement**  
**Subcommittee on Health**  
*The Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Health and Human Services Budget*  
**Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – 10:00AM**

*As prepared for delivery.*

Thank you, Vice Chair Harshbarger, and thank you Secretary Kennedy, for being here today to discuss the HHS Budget and your Department's priorities.

This Congress, Republicans have worked hard to take on some of the major health care challenges facing Americans, ranging from mitigating the influx of illicit drugs to cleaning up the waste, fraud, and abuse that have plagued our safety net programs. We've held a series of hearings to examine the major cost drivers across the entire health care system, and just last week, we held our first hearing in another series on promoting a healthier America, which I know is important to you as well.

Secretary Kennedy, I look forward to hearing from you today on everything you have been doing to improve health care for all Americans. In particular, I want to commend you on the release of the new dietary guidelines and your work with medical schools across the country to increase nutrition training. These are important initiatives that are long overdue.

I also want to commend you for your continued partnership in taking on waste, fraud, and abuse in our health care system.

When bad actors exploit these programs, patients who rely on care ultimately suffer. This is not a victimless crime.

With initiatives like this Committee's ongoing investigation into fraud schemes, combined with the Administration's new Anti-Fraud Task Force, Republicans are committed to protecting patients and preserving crucial government health programs for decades to come.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Trump Administration and your Department to restore the integrity of our health system and to implement solutions that put patients first.

Thank you, Secretary Kennedy, for your participation today, and I look forward to the discussion.

I yield back.