

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Diana DeGette

Markup of 10 Bills, Subcommittee on Health

May 13, 2026

Today, we are marking up ten bipartisan bills, all of which I support, and I encourage my colleagues to support them as well.

The EARLY Act, led by Representatives Wasserman-Schultz and Miller-Meeks, reauthorizes a critical program that helps women learn about detecting breast cancer early, which means a more treatable disease.

The Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act, led by Representatives Higgins and Troy Carter, will allow FDA to destroy dangerous products that are denied entry—keeping our communities safe from illegal vapes and unsafe food.

And the ACT for ALS Reauthorization, led by Representatives Quigley and Calvert, will build on the successes of the original ACT for ALS—bringing promising treatments to patients who can't wait and bolstering the research infrastructure for a cruel disease that has claimed too many lives, including my father-in-law's.

I could go on. All ten of these bills are good bills that we should pass expeditiously.

But this is only our second health subcommittee markup this Congress—by this point in the 118th Congress, we had held five. And it should not be lost on any of us that most of these bills are reauthorizations—a commitment to continuing work that is already happening. Neither this Committee nor this Congress seem to be intent on solving the problems facing our constituents.

This Committee is not taking up legislation to help the estimated 20 percent fewer people enrolled on the ACA exchanges who are now facing down the prospect of life without health insurance, much less the 80 percent of enrollees who report higher health care costs this year—all thanks to the majority's refusal to extend enhanced ACA tax credits.

This Committee is not taking up legislation to restore the research engine that powers American innovation, as the administration seeks to cut funding for science and censor researchers.

This Committee is not taking up legislation to address the crisis facing rural hospitals and the people they serve as they await the Big Bad Bill's Medicaid cuts.

This is the work of a majority intent on doing the bare minimum.

This Committee's work during the 119th Congress is defined by two things: taking health care away from millions of Americans to line the pockets of the wealthy at the behest of Donald Trump, and sitting idly by as biomedical research, vaccination, pandemic preparedness, public health as a whole—all historically bipartisan priorities—are dismantled.

Mr. Chairman, you and I work well together. I consider many of my colleagues on the other side friends, and when we identify common goals, we have done good things for the American people, and I believe we still can. So it is with that desire to work together for the American people that I say: This Committee needs to stop waiting for permission from Donald Trump to do its job.

We are the first branch of government, the most connected to the people. It is our job to set policy and tell the Executive Branch what to do, not vice versa. We can work together to solve these problems, which I believe you also want to solve, or we can continue to go through the motions.

I promise that Democrats, when we take the Majority, will not shy away from the big issues that our constituents care about. Until then, I am glad we are considering the bills we are today. We do need to send them to the floor, where I will work to make sure they pass, and the underlying programs will continue to benefit the American people.

I urge support for each of these bills, and I yield back.