

**Opening Statement of Chairman Upton  
Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee Hearing “Disrupter  
Series: Health Care Apps”  
July 13, 2016**

Today we continue our Disrupter Series as we examine health care apps that are truly revolutionizing how folks in Michigan and across the country are managing their health.

As the sponsor of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, with my good friend and colleague, Congresswoman Diana DeGette, it’s no secret that we have been fighting to modernize and personalize our health care system to find faster cures and better treatments for all Americans.

And we face some of the same concerns with health apps in terms of ensuring that government is encouraging rather than hindering the development of new life saving technologies. Today, we will examine what it means for patients as mobile apps have the potential to modernize, personalize, and improve the overall delivery of care.

The development and proliferation of health apps is an essential part of our effort to cultivate a healthier population and save more lives. Because of remarkable advancements in technology, doctors and patients both receive information that is more accurate and timely, which accelerates better diagnoses and preventative treatment plans. This technology’s ability to seamlessly connect doctors and patients together through a smartphone or connected device opens the door to a wide range of medical discoveries, possibilities, and insights, not to

mention the potential to prevent medical problems before they occur.

An additional benefit of mobile health apps is that they help to drastically reduce skyrocketing health care costs. By integrating the Internet into practically everything we own, we have generated productivity and efficiency gains, and cost savings across multiple economic sectors. The health care sector is no different – if anything, there is no sector in greater need of this modernizing. Better care achieved more efficiently can lead to reduced doctor visits, decreased complications and risks, lower hospital readmissions, and much more.

The potential stemming from this technology is undeniable and exciting. To ensure that these life-saving tools are accessible to folks in Michigan and every corner of the country, we need the right regulatory framework in place. A framework that encourages innovation, removes barriers to investment, and advances new opportunities for patients and providers to engage in the health care system. At the same time privacy and security are absolute musts. This is one of the most important policies that industry must show leadership on.

As the world's leader in medical innovation, the time to make these promising health care advances available to American families is now.