

Thank you, Chairman Yarmuth and Ranking Member Womack.

Thank you also to Chairman Pallone, who invited me to testify on the ambitious priorities of the Energy and Commerce Committee for the 116th Congress.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has a broad mandate - our work touches nearly every aspect of Americans' lives.

This is why our committee knows there is much work to be done.

We must address our changing climate, preserve an open internet, rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, and ensure every individual in this country has affordable and high-quality health care coverage.

Our agenda will be ambitious. And -- most importantly -- it will ensure that all those living in the U.S. will be able to reach their full potential.

In this new majority, it feels fitting to draw strength and wisdom from an extraordinary former Dean of the House, our very own Chairman Dingell, who often said: “It is imperative that we not compromise public safety in the name of being “**penny-wise** but **pound** foolish.”

I cannot agree more.

Democrats are excited to get to work.

Our budget must reflect serious, sustained investments to fight climate change.

Climate change represents an existential threat to our future, our way of life, and our economy. We simply cannot wait any longer to act.

The federal government, our national labs, and universities are unique and invaluable resources that we must mobilize to address the climate change crisis in partnership with state and local governments, and the private sector.

The Energy and Commerce Committee will act to reaffirm America's role as the leader in the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of clean and renewable energies.

Our budget must also recognize the importance of a free flow of information.

A free and open internet has revolutionized the way we do business, changed how we learn and communicate with loved ones, and expanded our ability to access information.

We must keep that innovative spirit alive, which is why the Energy and Commerce Committee will pass the Save The Internet Act to restore the Net Neutrality protections President Trump's Federal Communications Commission repealed.

We must also affirm our commitment to modernizing the nation's infrastructure to create jobs, promote economic growth, and protect public health and the environment.

The Energy and Commerce Committee will take action on legislation like the LIFT America Act - which makes key investments in modernizing AN inadequate broadband system and the electric grid, in expanding renewable energy infrastructure and healthcare and, cleaning contaminated drinking water.

We will also decisively act on health care. Our budget must make a steadfast commitment to ensure that **every American** can see a doctor.

That **every senior** can afford their prescriptions.

That **every child** is sent to school healthy.

That **every person** is covered no matter their preexisting conditions.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is hard at work unraveling the sabotage done to our health care system by the Trump administration and congressional Republicans.

My colleagues are in the Rayburn room **right now** discussing how we can strengthen health insurance markets, enroll more eligible individuals, and decrease the costs of coverage.

But we won't stop here.

While Republicans want to talk about what Americans can't have. Democrats want to talk about what Americans can be.

We believe Americans can be healthy and prosperous – and that how much money you make and where you live should have no determination on your potential.

I want to conclude my testimony today by recognizing the importance of this moment.

And while I'm sure that Americans are not sitting on the edge of their sofas watching this Budget Committee hearing, I want them to know that we are hard at work prioritizing the needs of their family so that everyone can live a better life.

Thank you and I yield back.