

**Opening Statement of Chairman Walden**  
**Full Committee Markup**  
**July 12, 2018**

*(As prepared for delivery)*

This morning we meet to markup more than one dozen commonsense bills, most of which are bipartisan, that have been thoughtfully and thoroughly considered by five of our subcommittees.

The four bills before us to improve the nation's health provider workforce were approved unanimously by our Health Subcommittee last month. H.R. 959, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 3728, the EMPOWER Act reauthorize workforce programs under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act. These programs support the education, recruitment, and retention of many types of health providers.

H.R. 5385, Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act, will reauthorize payments to freestanding Children's Hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs in order to support the pediatric health workforce.

And finally, H.R. 1676, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act will establish a program to enable the training interprofessional health practitioners in palliative and hospice care in a variety of settings. This bill is particularly important to me, and one that I have heard about its potential impact from specialists and disease advocates from across my home state of Oregon.

Originating from the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, we will consider H.R. 6032, the SMART IoT Act, to direct a first-of-its-kind study of the internet-connected devices industry.

Fresh off of a unanimous markup last month in the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, H.R. 2345, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, H.R. 5709, the PIRATE Act, H.R. 3994, the ACCESS BROADBAND Act, and H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act will all be before us today. From improving public safety to expanding rural broadband, these bills will collectively address many important parts of our communications ecosystem.

We also will consider two bipartisan bills passed by the Subcommittee on Energy to address regulatory and technological challenges which hamper our ability to capture the benefits of clean, reliable nuclear energy.

H.R. 1320 is good for consumers who pay for regulatory costs of nuclear energy. Meanwhile, the Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability Act establishes a public-private partnership to provide a pathway to have advanced nuclear fuels available to enable America's nuclear scientists and innovators deploy the next generation of technologies.

Last but not least, we will consider two bills passed by the Subcommittee on Environment to reauthorize certain environmental remediation projects at the Department of Energy.

Today's bills speak to the hard work of our members and staff on both sides of the aisle to enact meaningful solutions that empower consumers, patients, small businesses, and all Americans. I urge my colleagues to support these measures and look forward to advancing them to the full House for consideration.