

Statement for the Record of Representative Anna G. Eshoo

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Subcommittee on Health

Markup of 5 health bills

2123 Rayburn House Office Building

September 13, 2018

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding this markup today. I'm proud that our Committee continues to advance bipartisan health legislation, including two bills which I'm a cosponsor of, in a timely manner.

I'm very pleased that the Chairman has moved the *ACE Kids Act* through subcommittee to the full committee so quickly. The amendment in the nature of the substitute we're considering incorporates technical assistance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Congressional Budget Office. This bill has undergone an extensive process, and I salute Congressman Barton and Congresswoman Castor for their willingness to make important improvements to their legislation.

The *ACE Kids Act* will advance care for the sickest children on Medicaid. Children with complex medical conditions require a large amount of health services which are expensive and difficult for families to coordinate. The *ACE Kids Act* aims to better coordinate this care while reducing overall Medicaid spending by creating a Medicaid care coordination program. Each state's program will be specifically tailored to fit each child's needs and will provide families with a care coordinator. It is based on existing programs that save money while decreasing hospital visits and improving care, and again, I urge my colleagues to support it.

This Committee is also considering legislation to take an important step in lowering the price our constituents pay for their prescription drugs. I'm pleased to be an original cosponsor of Congressman Buddy Carter's legislation to ban gag clauses that prevent pharmacists from informing patients when they can save money by paying cash for their prescription drugs instead of using their insurance. This legislation lifts the outrageous restrictions currently in place that prevent pharmacists from informing consumers of the most cost-efficient way to pay for their prescription drugs. This is an important first step in the drug pricing conversation and this Committee must do more and consider additional legislation to address the rising cost of prescription drugs.

Thank you again for bringing these bipartisan bills through Committee today. I'm pleased to support all every bill and encourage the Chairman to move this legislation to the full House as quickly as possible so we can improve access to health care and lower priced prescription drugs for our constituents.