

Opening Statement  
Chairwoman Jan Schakowsky  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Markup of 38 Bills  
*September 9, 2020*

Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations on bringing us together for another impressive markup. 36 bills show this committee remains THE legislative powerhouse. I am proud to be moving 7 bills today from my subcommittee's jurisdiction.

I would first like to thank you, Chairman Pallone, and Chair Eshoo, for advancing Rep. Blumenauer's H.R. 3797 in order to allow for Federal funding for cannabis research.

On January 1, 2020 Illinois legalized recreational cannabis use across our state.

Dispensaries sold more than \$19.7 million in cannabis over the first 12 days of sales.

However, researchers at Northwestern University, a leading research institution in my district, have no way to access the cannabis sold at these dispensaries.

Instead, Northwestern's scientists often face extreme difficulty in securing and maintaining cannabis and federal funding for research.

I would also like to commend Chairman Tonko for his work with Senate Majority Leader McConnell to advance the Horseracing Integrity Act. This is a real achievement and a testament to your commitment to the issue.

The other six bills from Consumer Protection deal with artificial intelligence, senior and pandemic scams, and consumer product safety. In particular, I would like to highlight the Consumer Product Safety Inspection Enhancement Act and thank Congressman Duncan for introducing it with me.

E-commerce spending is surging during the COVID-19 pandemic, as Americans turn to online shopping for household essentials, personal protective equipment, back to school supplies, and more.

However, e-commerce shipments entering the United States from overseas face little scrutiny and often contain fake or dangerous products.

It is time we empower the Consumer Product Safety Commission to collect the data it needs to identify and block e-commerce shipments that flout our consumer product safety laws and standards.

And today we do just that.