

CMR Opening Statement (7/21/21)
Energy and Commerce Full Committee Markup
Health, Communications, and Technology Bills
As prepared for delivery

INTRO

Thank you, Chair, and good morning.

Today is a good example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

We are moving more than twenty bills to modernize our health care system, lower costs, ensure a robust and secure communications network, and improve people's lives.

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

After a year of lockdowns....

... our communities are battling the deaths of despair.

I'm very concerned about the increase in mental health emergencies, especially among young adults and children.

During the pandemic, overdose deaths also were a record high.

This hits close to home for all of us. For me, I think about the two teenagers we lost last fall to potential fentanyl exposure.

Today, we are moving 5 bipartisan solutions to address opioid and stimulant use disorders.

We must build on this work by first, making the placement of fentanyl analogs in schedule I permanent.

Law enforcement needs this tool to keep deadly fentanyl analogs from coming across the border and off our streets.

Second, we also need to work to reauthorize programs at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that expire next year, including those we worked on together in previous historic opioid packages to combat the opioid epidemic.

HEALTH

In addition, today, we are advancing bipartisan solutions to unleash innovation...

... boost access to vaccines...

... and improve public health.

I'd also like to commend the bipartisan work to extend Medicaid funding for the territories with the bill led by Representatives Bilirakis and Soto.

I'm grateful for the hard work of my friends and colleagues Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico Jenniffer Gonzalez and Congresswoman Amata Radewagen [RAD-uh-wag-en].

C&T

I'm also pleased we are taking action on eight bipartisan solutions that will strengthen the security of our networks as industry deploys advanced technologies.

With recent cyberattacks, it is our duty to find solutions that ensure a robust and secure supply chain for our communications networks.

CONCLUSION

Finally, before we begin, I must note my concern about the Majority's tax and spending spree that is in the works for more socialist command and control over health care.

This markup proves we can work together. It leads to better outcomes and stronger legislation.

Why draft and rush such a large partisan bill in secret with radical priorities to federalize Medicaid... march to Medicare for All... and jam in Speaker Pelosi's socialist drug pricing scheme?

Republicans stand ready to work to lower health care costs, including prescription drug prices.

This fall should be spent working together to address the substance use disorder and mental health crisis facing Americans...

.... rather than doubling down on more government spending when we're already seeing negative consequences - prices on everything from gas to groceries are skyrocketing.

Today's markup proves what we can achieve, and Republicans stand ready to work.