

November 17, 2021

**Honorable Brett Guthrie
Opening Statement for Full Committee markup**

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Chair for having this markup. While I am glad that we are holding this markup on many bipartisan bills, **I am frustrated by the Democrats planned action on the floor this week for their reckless tax and spending spree bill.**

Democrats are determined to move forward with their reckless tax and spending spree bill without knowing the full cost or how many of the main provisions in the bill will be implemented. This is a massive bill that will increase taxes, fuel inflation, and get the government more involved in Americans' daily lives.

In the most recent draft of this reckless tax and spending spree bill, there are several policies that would harm some of the most vulnerable populations in our country and would be detrimental to safety net providers, which provide vital services--- and allow wealthier Americans to get Obamacare subsidies.

Further, Democrats are including a version of the partisan H.R. 3 drug pricing plan in this bill. This committee voted to **NOT** advance these policies when it was before us in September due to its detrimental effects on innovative new drugs coming to the market, and therefore the detrimental effect on American patients.

This bill brings us another step closer to a single payer health care system, which means more government control of health care, worse care, and longer waits.

Fortunately, Republicans on this committee have put together a bipartisan solution to lower drug costs without sacrificing innovation. The costs of drugs are too high for many Americans, and The Lower Costs, More Cures Act addresses these problems without upending American medical innovation. It caps seniors out of pocket drug costs, which is one of the main reasons my colleagues across the aisle are advocating for the reckless tax and spending spree.

While I am disappointed and frustrated in the actions taken by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle this week, I do appreciate that we are advancing some important bills today.

My bill, H.R. 5561, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Reauthorization Act would reauthorize the EHDI program which provides early detection, diagnosis, and intervention for newborns, infants, and young children identified as deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Also, I am glad **H.R. 1193, the Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act or CAROL Act** is included in today's markup. This bill is sponsored by my fellow Kentuckian Andy Barr in recognition of his late wife, Carol who tragically died at 39 years young. I am glad we are advancing this bill out of our committee, making her legacy bill one step closer to becoming law.

The CAROL Act and the EHDI Act are great examples of bipartisan work this committee can and does accomplish and I hope we can continue our great bipartisan work.

I yield back.