

**119th Congress Member Day Hearing**  
**House Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**December 12, 2025**  
**Testimony for Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez**

Thank you, Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, for the opportunity to testify today about the priorities for Southwest Washington.

**REPAIR Act**

One of the things that brought me to Congress was right to repair issues.

I believe that when you buy something, you should have the right to decide where and how it gets fixed, or access to the information to fix it yourself.

My husband and I run an auto repair and machine shop. We see the same story over and over: cars that could be fixed, customers who want them fixed, and skilled mechanics who are ready to do the job—but can't, because manufacturers keep a hold on the data, the software, or the tools to make the repair.

And in rural communities like mine, it can take hours to drive to an authorized dealership for a repair.

The REPAIR Act would affirm that this data belongs to the vehicle's owner— not the manufacturer—putting high-quality repairs in reach for rural Americans and making them less expensive.

Americans are tired of lip service about lowering prices or respecting the trades. We need to empower more people to undertake their own repairs. But auto manufacturers have made it increasingly difficult to exercise real agency.

This Congress's updated REPAIR Act is compromise legislation that will ensure that automakers' systems stay protected, and drivers get to retain their choice.

These protections are common sense, and long overdue. This would make a meaningful difference in supporting our trades and restoring people's sense of agency to fix and be stewards of our own stuff— not reliant on a stream of cheap disposable crap.

I thank my colleague on the committee, Dr. Dunn, for his partnership on this issue, and urge the committee to support the REPAIR Act.

## **Headlights**

I also want to mention one other priority of mine for the motor vehicle safety title of surface transportation reauthorization.

Like some of you, I live in a rural place and spend a lot of time driving on dark two-lane roads. And I hear the same thing from constituents that I feel myself: car headlights have gotten too bright, too high, and too harsh, and it's creating real safety risks.

That's because there's no overall limit on low beam car headlight brightness or glare.

In recent years, we've seen a rapid shift to high-intensity LEDs and more aggressive headlight optics. But our regs haven't kept up with this changing reality.

I know this may sound trivial, but as I've spoken about this issue, it's clear that this has struck a nerve for people. Everyone thinks they're the only person who has to squint or look away or feel blinded from bright headlights - but you're not alone! I believe by finding areas of common agreement like this, we can demonstrate the capacity of legislation to improve lives.

I was proud to have language overwhelmingly pass the Appropriations Committee urging NHTSA to report to Congress on the impacts of headlight brightness.

But we have an opportunity to do something now.

I understand the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law tried to improve this issue by allowing manufacturers to make Adaptive Driving Beams, but let's be honest, this hasn't helped because the regulations are too burdensome for manufacturers.

We don't need to introduce complicated technology that could break and cost more to repair.

Instead, I want to work with the Committee to ensure that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration develops overall maximum brightness on lumens - standardizing headlights for automobiles that retains visibility for drivers but also reduces glare for other folks on the road. Just simple limits that reflect the real-world experience on the road.

Thank you again Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone for giving me the opportunity to testify today, and I look forward to working with both of you to deliver for communities in Southwest Washington.

**Statement of Representative Eric Sorensen**  
**House Committee on Energy and Commerce Member Day**  
**December 12, 2025**

Thank you, Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, for the opportunity to testify before the Committee today.

I'm here today to speak on several commonsense bills I've introduced before the Committee — legislation that lowers costs, protects consumers, and improves the well-being of families in my district and around the nation.

In Central and Northwestern Illinois, there's one issue that I hear about the most. And I learned about it *\*before\** I was a member of Congress: it's the cost of prescription drugs.

The pharmacist at my Jewel-Osco told me many years ago that the worst part of her job is seeing seniors push pill bottles back to her because they're too expensive.

And that happens because of the games Big Pharma plays to keep generics out of the hands of the people we serve.

My bill, the STOP GAMES Act, addresses their tactic.

STOP GAMES cracks down on citizen petitions filed *\*not to improve safety, but to delay competition.*

Often filed at the last minute, these duplicative and unsupported petitions stall generic approvals for years, all the while keeping prices high for patients, and keeping profits high for corporations.

STOP GAMES gives the FDA clear authority to quickly reject petitions whose primary purpose is delay and my bill will help put lower-cost, lifesaving medicines into patients' hands at the pharmacy counter.

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Affordability challenges extend beyond health care. Many families face impossible choices each month: pay their utility bills or put food on the table.

No one should have to sacrifice their health or stability just to keep the tap running. Access to clean, safe, and affordable water is not a luxury. It's a basic necessity for every household, every family, and every community.

My bipartisan Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act, known as LIHWAP, is a practical and compassionate solution to ensure that essential water services remain within reach for lower-income households.

LIHWAP is modeled after the highly successful Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, which provides block grants to states to ensure low-income and vulnerable populations do not lose access to heating and cooling services.

After its creation in 2021, LIHWAP helped more than 1 million households across the country, including nearly 80,000 families in Illinois afford their water.

Because LIHWAP was created as a temporary program, its funding expired in 2023, ending this critical assistance even as families continue to struggle.

By helping families stay current on their bills, we reduce shutoffs, prevent costly emergency interventions, and support utilities in maintaining the infrastructure we all rely on.

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Of course, lowering costs isn't just about health care and utilities. It's also about protecting people from new threats that drain their wallets.

The Stephenson County, Illinois sheriff told me just a few weeks ago that scam robocallers and robo-texts are getting more sophisticated. With Artificial Intelligence, scammers have no limit to what they can do to trick seniors out of their savings.

I want to thank Ranking Member Pallone for his partnership and leadership on this issue.

My bipartisan QUIET Act would \*double\* the fines for AI-driven scams and require disclosure when AI is used in a call.

Robocalls hit a six-year high in 2025, so the time to act is now.

I urge this Committee to support the QUIET Act and help protect families across Illinois and the country.

The three bills I discussed: STOP GAMES, LIHWAP, and QUIET all reflect my commitment to lowering costs, protecting consumers, and improving the lives of everyday Americans.

And these should be able to bring this committee together, from both sides of the aisle. Thank you, and I look forward to working with the Committee to advance these important solutions.