

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement
of
Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Gene Green
July 24, 2018

21st Century Cures: Updates from FDA and NIH

Mr. Chairman, thank you for holding today's hearing on the implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act.

I thank Dr. Collins and Dr. Gottlieb for being here this morning.

This December will mark the two year anniversary of the 21st Century Cures Act being signed into law by President Obama in his last public signing ceremony.

The promise of the 21st Century Cures Act is to advance the discovery and development of new treatments and cures through increased research and an improved drug approval process.

This important law dedicated \$6.3 billion in new investments to support medical research initiatives like the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot, the BRAIN Initiative and the Precision Medicine Initiative within the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

It also provides money to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to advance the agency's mission and implement the policies in the underlying bill.

It is the hope of our committee and Congress that these investments are being put towards finding a cure for many of our nation's biggest medical priorities and ensuring the infrastructure is in place so new therapies are accessible to all Americans.

The NIH was provided \$4.8 billion in new funding to advance cutting-edge research initiatives.

The FDA was provided \$500 million over 10 years to improve the agency's medical product review process and expedite patient access to drugs and devices without compromising standards of safety and effectiveness.

In addition to this much needed funding, there were many provisions in this package worthy of support: from facilitating the development of new antibiotics to fight against superbugs to advancing the use of modern clinical trial designs, to investing in the next generation of medical researchers.

While some of the provisions are technical in nature, the real-world impact they could have is not abstract.

Patients and families deserve to have their elected officials respond to their needs. The 21st Century Cures Act was written to do just that.

This morning is an opportunity to hear from the heads of the FDA and the NIH on implementation of the many provisions of this law, from patient-focused drug development, medical device innovation, and improving scientific expertise and hiring capacity.

Many Members of our committee were instrumental in getting Cures developed and signed into law, most notably Representatives Diana DeGette and Fred Upton.

The 21st Century Cures Act demonstrates what we can accomplish when we work across the aisle.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about the ongoing implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and I yield the remainder of my time to Congresswoman DeGette.