

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton
Chairman Emeritus, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Health Subcommittee Markup

September 7, 2018

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased the Subcommittee is marking up HR3325 the “Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act.” This bi-partisan bill is the culmination of several years’ work by many dedicated advocates, providers, and families. We should all be grateful for their advocacy and dedication to improving our healthcare system for these vulnerable children with complex medical needs. I would also like to thank my staff, Congresswoman Castor’s staff and Committee staff for their hard work in crafting a bill that creates a model of care that will help our nation’s most vulnerable Medicaid population, children with complex medical needs, receive greater care coordination and improved quality of life.

The language I will offer today as an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to HR3325 is a more refined and precise piece of legislation that remains true to the fundamental goal of the ACE Kids Act from the beginning -- to put kids and their families first -- to make them the center and focus of a health home and care coordinator that improves their quality of life. In addition to helping these children and their families, this model is proven to save taxpayer dollars by reducing hospitalizations, duplications in care and coordinating services.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in advancing this important legislation by accepting this “amendment in the nature of a substitute.”

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your leadership and all the other Members of this Subcommittee for acting on this important legislation.