

The Honorable Tom Emmer
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Draft Prepared Statement in Support of Personalized Healthcare and the Congressional
Personalized Medicine Caucus
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Re: Hearing on “The Future of Biomedicine: Translating Biomedical Research into Personalized Health Care”

Today, the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled, “The Future of Biomedicine: Translating Biomedical Research into Personalized Healthcare.” As a co-chair of the bi-partisan, bi-cameral Personalized Medicine Caucus, I write in support of personalized medicine, also referred to as precision or individualized medicine, and to encourage others to join our caucus.

Personalized medicine is a rapidly advancing field in which physicians use diagnostic tests to identify specific biological characteristics that help determine which medical treatments and procedures will work best for each patient. Personalized medicine has already improved the quality of care available to patients from pharmacogenomics, rare diseases, and cancer care.

By combining the results of diagnostic tests with an individual’s personal medical records, personalized medicine allows doctors and patients to develop treatment and prevention plans targeted to an individual. This customized approach to health care includes better medication effectiveness; reduction of adverse effects; lower costs through optimized therapy; enhanced diagnostic capability; and improved disease management.

The future of personalized medicine depends on innovative information technology and an ability to correctly analyze and compile health data to form cohesive care strategies. With the permission of patients, the integration of electronic medical records, genome databases, disease registries, enhanced laboratory tests, prescription pharmacy data, and administrative claims data will play a crucial role in this advancement.

One way in which we are working to progress this science is through legislation we introduced with my colleagues, Representatives Peters and Swalwell. [The Precision Medicine Answers for Kids Today Act](#) will advance patients’ access to diagnoses, treatments, and cures, particularly for children with rare diseases. The bill eliminates barriers to care to allow for better access to genetic and genomic testing. This bill has been included in the 21st Century Cures 2.0 Act introduced by Representatives DeGette and Upton last month.

To that end, the Caucus works with the Personalized Medicine Coalition to raise awareness using industry resources and improve health care through personalized medicine. The Coalition has nearly 300 member organizations across the medical field, demonstrating broad-based support for personalized medicine. Twenty-four percent of the Coalition’s members are research, education, and clinical institutions; 13% are patient advocacy groups; and 9% are biotech/pharmaceutical companies. It consists of scientists, patients, providers, payers,

bioengineers, and other key stakeholders. Membership includes such names as the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN; MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX; Duke University Center for Personalized Health Care in Durham, NC; Alzheimer’s Foundation of America in New York, NY; Brown University in Providence, RI; the Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, FL; and many more.

The Personalized Medicine Caucus is the only conference beyond the committees of jurisdiction to collectively discuss policies for advancing this groundbreaking innovation. The Caucus, which I co-chair in the House, is committed to furthering this lifesaving care. The Caucus partners with the Coalition to host briefings that educate other lawmakers and staff and will work to influence progress in the field as future health care laws are shaped.

You can watch a message on personalized medicine in the state of Minnesota in my interview with the Personalized Medicine Coalition [here](#).

If you are interested in learning more about or joining the Caucus, please reach out to my staff at ryan.altman@mail.house.gov.

Sources:

- “Using Health Data to Advance Personalized Medicine: Challenges and a Path Forward” – PMC Whitepaper
- https://www.personalizedmedicinecoalition.org/Userfiles/PMC-Corporate/file/The_Congressional_PM_Caucus.pdf
- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5989/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr5989%22%2C%22hr5989%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=2>