

Joyce Opening Statement for User Fee Markup

Thank you for yielding Chair Eshoo and Ranking Member Guthrie for convening this markup on such important legislation. Briefly I would like to highlight two of the bills before us today. First, HR 7667, the User Fee Reauthorization, which addresses the safe and prompt approval of new drugs, biologics, generics and biosimilars that are critical to the health of all our constituents. Reauthorizing these agreements before us today on time will be critical as we seek to continue the innovation we have seen in this space, innovation that Americans have come to expect. To that end I would like to thank committee leadership for including HR 6988, the Drug Manufacturing Innovation Act which builds on the FDA's Emerging Technology Program, which seeks to speed the approval of drugs made using novel manufacturing technologies by providing more regulatory certainty for drug sponsors. The use of these new technologies will ultimately lower costs for patients and address future supply chain issues. I would also like to thank Rep. Levin for working with me on this issue.

Second, I would like to commend both Chair Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers for HR 7666, the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act which is a truly comprehensive package that will reauthorize key programs at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Health Resources and Services Administration. This bill will begin to get at the mental health crisis that was created in many American communities due to the response to COVID-19 during lockdowns and unnecessary prolonged school closures. Children and pediatric populations have been particularly impacted by this crisis and I thank committee for including HR 7248, the Continuing Systems of Care for Children Act, which I introduced with Rep. Sarbanes, that will reauthorize two crucial programs. One aimed at providing children and their families better access to mental health care, support services and the other to expand comprehensive treatment and recovery services for children and young adults struggling with substance use disorders.

I look forward to committee moving both of these bills forward and continuing this important work next week at our full committee meeting. With that I yield back Madam Chair.