

Thank you, Chairwoman Eshoo.

I am pleased this Subcommittee was able to reach agreements on several of our most important priorities... including legislation to invest in mental health services, bolster public health, and safeguard drugs and biologics.

As we work to advance much-needed legislation that addresses our nation’s mental health crisis, it is important that we keep a focus on strengthening system capacity and addressing behavioral health workforce shortages.

We need to put physical and mental health on equal footing, once and for all... and advancing my Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Expansion Act (HR 4323), is a step in the right direction.

This legislation, which I introduced with my colleague from Oklahoma, Representative Markwayne Mullin, would expand the availability of integrated, community-based programs

Critically, this legislation authorizes a SAMHSA line item for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Expansion (CCBHC-E) Grants. These SAMHSA grants helped establish hundreds of clinics that deliver 24/7

care to millions of Americans dealing with drug and mental health crises.

The results of the Expansion Grant program have been nothing short of outstanding. According to HHS reports, “CCBHC participants showed a 72 percent decrease in mental health care hospitalization in the past 30 days and a 69 percent decrease in emergency room visits.”

To date, these grants have provided 431 CCBHCs across the country with an opportunity to dramatically expand access to comprehensive and evidence-based mental health and addiction care by offering a wide array of integrated services.

As the legislation we are considering today moves to the floor, particularly the mental health package, I look forward to working with you, Rep. Guthrie, Chairman Pallone, and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers to ensure that this valuable and innovative program receives a five-year authorization.

Thank you, and I yield back.