

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Anna Eshoo

Markup of 19 Bills, Subcommittee on Health

March 12, 2024

Thank you Mr. Chairman and good morning, colleagues.

Part of our essential work as Members is making sure important public health programs nearing their expiration are continued, improved and in some cases, expanded.

I'm so pleased our Subcommittee is beginning that work today by marking up 19 bills to authorize public health programs that support and improve the health and wellbeing of adults and children.

We'll consider legislation to support patients in the fight against cancer. The SCREENS for Cancer Act introduced by Reps. Morelle (D-NY) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) reauthorizes through fiscal year 2028 the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program which has provided lifesaving cancer screening and screening services to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women in all 50 states.

The legislation addresses the alarming trend of young adults – especially women – being diagnosed with late-stage cancer. Current cancer screening guidelines have not kept pace with these trends and the bill will help move the needle on this.

We will also consider bills to enhance medical research at the NIH and ensure all Americans are included in research such as the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act introduced by Chair Rodgers, Reps. DeGette (D-CO) and DeLauro (D-CT). The legislation authorizes the INCLUDE Project at the NIH for five years and ensures individuals with Down Syndrome live healthy, long lives. The individuals with Down Syndrome are highly predisposed to diseases like Alzheimer's yet are included in very few clinical trials and research programs.

We'll also consider two bills to improve medication adherence and access for patients diagnosed with kidney disease or fighting cancer. I hope we can come to bipartisan agreement on these bills to put patients first.

No matter where one lives in our country, the critical programs at CDC and HRSA we will make important differences in the lives of Americans. I stand ready to work with my colleagues to ensure these programs are reauthorized.

Thank you and I yield back.