

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce Chair Janice D. Schakowsky
Hearing on “Legislative Hearing to Protect Consumers and Strengthen the Economy”

May 26, 2022

Today we will consider 9 pieces of bipartisan legislation that will protect consumers and strengthen the economy.

As many of you may know, my political career began as a consumer advocate pushing grocery stores to include freshness dates on their products.

Kitchen table issues like this are near and dear to my heart.

These issues impact all of us and the bills we are taking up today would have a tangible, positive impact on our constituents’ daily lives.

These bills include the SAFE (Save America’s Forgotten Equines) Act that I introduced with Representative Buchanan.

This legislation will prevent horses from being slaughtered for human consumption.

Horse slaughter is not only inherently cruel, but it is also dangerous, and horsemeat can be toxic to humans due to the unregulated administration of drugs to horses.

We have the opportunity to end the cruel practice of horse slaughter. And we have the opportunity to end the abusive practice of horse soring.

This horrifying act involves the intentional injuring of the hooves and legs of performance walking horses.

Representatives Cohen, Fitzpatrick, Buchanan, and my “PAST Act” would strengthen protections against horse soring.

The Pink Tax Repeal Act sponsored by my colleague Representative Jackie Speier will end gender-based pricing discrimination and ensure that women aren’t paying more for goods and services like house and childcare essentials that are virtually identical to those used by men.

We have seen everything from diapers and bibs to deodorant and probiotics significantly marked up when advertised for women and girls.

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The “Visit America Act” introduced by Representatives Titus, Case and the late Don Young, and the “Travel and Tourism Act” led by Representatives Dunn, Soto, and Salazar, will boost our travel and tourism industry.

Legislation by Representatives Dean and Armstrong will offer consumers a convenient and accessible way to safely navigate the notarization process remotely.

Legislation from my colleagues Representatives Kelly , Arrington, and Lieu will protect children from deadly batteries that can be easily ingested.

“Reese’s Law” is named in honor of Reese Hamsmith, the daughter of our courageous witness Trista, who will share her story with us today.

I look forward to moving Reese’s Law to ensure that no parent must come before this subcommittee again because they lost a child to a dangerous product.

Together, these bills will make Americans’ daily lives safer and easier.

I am looking forward to hearing from the witnesses here today on how we can protect consumers and grow our economy.

Thank you to the witnesses for joining us. I now recognize Mr. Bilirakis for 5 minutes.