

**Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.**  
**House Energy and Commerce Committee**  
**Subcommittee on Health**  
**Hearing on “Examining the 340B Drug Pricing Program”**  
**Opening Statement**

*March 24, 2015*

I would like to thank the Chairman for calling this hearing on the 340B Program. And thank the witnesses for their testimony here today.

In 1992, a bipartisan Congress established the 340B Program to expand access to affordable health care by limiting the cost of outpatient drugs paid for certain safety net providers.

Since that time 22 years ago, the 340B Program has played a critical role in our health care system to ensure that low-income and vulnerable individuals have access to affordable health care. In supporting our vital nation’s safety net – from community health centers to safety net hospitals to HIV clinics and Hemophilia treatment centers – the 340B Program has made the difference between patients getting access to lifesaving health care services and drugs or going without.

Congress’ intention when this program was created was to help covered entities expand their capacity to serve their patients. Through savings from the drugs purchased at a discounted rate, 340B providers are able to stretch scarce resources to reach more eligible patients, and provide more comprehensive health services.

It is without a doubt that the resources provided through the 340B Program have a direct impact on augmenting patient care throughout the country and will continue to play an integral role in the future by supporting the mission of safety net providers who serve low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients.

Of course, for this program to continue to function as Congress intended, proper oversight of the 340B program is of paramount importance. I think we can all agree here today

that the mission of this program is sound, and a continued emphasis on program integrity will make the 340B program stronger now and in the coming years.

I thank the Chairman again for calling this long overdue hearing, and I yield back the balance of my time.