

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement
of**

Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Gene Green

***Subcommittee Markup of H.R. __, Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness
Reauthorization Act of 2018, H.R. 959, H.R. 1676, H.R. 3728, and H.R. 5385***

June 27, 2018

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today's subcommittee markup on five public health bills, including the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act and the Children's Hospital GME Supports Reauthorization Act that we introduced in March.

I am proud to have introduced the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act with the chairman of our subcommittee, Dr. Burgess.

We heard from medical experts from Texas and California last month, including the Vice Chair of Pediatrics at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, on the importance of reauthorizing the CHGME Program.

The CHGME Program provides needed funding to train our nation's pediatric workforce, including pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists, which are greatly needed in many communities around the country.

The CHGME Program is necessary due to how federal support for GME is currently structured, compensating hospitals through the percentage of Medicare patients they provide care to. This formula puts free-standing children's hospitals at a clear disadvantage.

Our legislation would reauthorize the CHGME Program for five years with an 8 to 10 percent funding increase.

As of today, our bipartisan legislation has 61 cosponsors, including many Members of our committee, and has the strong support from outside stakeholders, including the American Hospital Association and the Children's Hospital Association.

I thank the Chairman for including the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act in today's markup and am looking forward to the bill clearing the full committee and its consideration before the entire House of Representatives.

PAHPA is an important law that provides the Department of Health and Human Services with the reauthorizations and resources necessary to help the American people during an emergency or pandemic.

I am happy to see the progress that the PAHPA reauthorization bill has taken since our legislative hearing three weeks ago. In particular, I am happy to see that the proposed transfer of the Strategic National Stockpile to ASPR will not be codified, and instead will work in coordination with the CDC. I plan on supporting the Manager's Amendment and ask that all my colleagues vote in support.

Before I conclude, I need to bring up the issue of child separations. I disagreed with President's Trump 'zero tolerance' policy and the administration's decision to separate children from their parents in the strongest terms. It was inhumane and not reflective of nation's history and traditions.

While the Trump Administration's has reversed its child separation policy, there are still over 2,000 children in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement as a result.

As the committee of jurisdiction, it is our responsibility to ensure that these children are being properly cared for, as we would want our children to be cared for, and hear from HHS in an oversight hearing as soon as feasibly possible on what it's doing to protect these children and how it intends to reunite them with their parents.

I thank the chairman again for holding today's markup and I yield the remainder of my time.