

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Anna G. Eshoo

Markup of 24 Bills

July 21, 2021

Our Committee marks up 24 bipartisan bills today to improve the health of families across the country and improve the cybersecurity of our communications networks. I'm very proud today that 16 of the bills were heard and developed by the Health Subcommittee and I'm pleased to have led or co-led four of the bills under consideration today.

Health Subcommittee Members worked together to tackle hard problems related to substance use treatment, vaccine access, and the social inequities that result in poor health outcomes.

Five of the bills we're marking up today help address the overdose crisis our nation currently faces. In 2020 there were 93,000 overdose deaths, a 30% increase making 2020 the deadliest year for overdoses on record. The bills we're considering today will strengthen the resources that our local communities rely on to combat the overdose epidemic.

We'll markup six bills that aim to ensure that every American, no matter their age, race, or income, are empowered to receive the "dose of hope"... vaccine protection.

We have a hundred million Americans that remain today unvaccinated.

The other bills use public health data to address health disparities starting before conception, through childhood, and into adulthood, including the startling health inequities mothers in our country face.

Most importantly, our Committee worked together to negotiate a long-term solution to the Medicaid funding cliff Americans in the U.S. territories face beginning October 1st. I'm very pleased we have bipartisan agreement to increase the funding and the federal match for most of the territories for eight years, and five years for Puerto Rico.

I'm also pleased that we will be considering three bipartisan bills I've co-led that improve cybersecurity literacy, protect our telecom networks from national security threats, and help us develop a deeper knowledge of cyber vulnerabilities in our 2G, 3G, and 4G networks.

Today will be a productive day for our Committee and I look forward to passing these 24 bills which will make Americans healthier and safer. I yield back.