

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

Markup of Five Bills

September 14, 2022

Today, our Subcommittee marks up 5 bipartisan bills. First is H.R. 3173, the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* introduced by Congresswoman DelBene with over 300 bipartisan cosponsors. So bravo to Congresswoman DelBene for putting together most of the House of Representatives on this bill. The legislation streamlines health plan bureaucracy to allow patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans to get the care they need when they need it.

In a recent survey conducted by the AMA, 91% of physicians reported that prior authorizations have a negative impact on patient clinical outcomes. I think we've all heard from constituents and physicians on this issue.

This bill reforms the prior authorization process to reduce the burden placed on clinicians and patients, improve access to care, and increase administration efficiencies.

The next bill is H.R. 3655, the *Vaccine Injury Compensation Modernization Act*.

We all know that vaccines are one of the safest medical interventions but there are still some who experience exceptionally rare vaccine injuries and who deserve compensation.

The bill we'll mark up today removes the cap on special masters who review vaccine injury cases for compensation and change it to a floor of ten special masters. The increase in special masters should reduce the current two-year backlog of vaccine injury cases.

We'll also markup H.R. 5141, the *MOBILE Health Act* introduced by Representatives Lee and Hudson to bring services to hard-to-reach populations through mobile medical clinics.

H.R. 8163, the *Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act* introduced by Rep. O'Halleran, invests in trauma centers to increase access for the rural Americans who don't live near a trauma center currently. As we heard from the witnesses at our hearing, this legislation represents a bipartisan effort to uphold the federal government's commitment to ensuring that all Americans have access to life-saving trauma care.

Finally, we're marking up H.R. 6737, the *Flint Registry Reauthorization Act* introduced by Representative Dan Kildee and the Michigan delegation. It provides \$50 million for Flint's lead exposure registry over the next decade.

I support all of these bills. I think they're commonsense. I think each one really is directed very practically to fix something that cries out to be fixed. Many times we take up legislation that is highly intentional but they have a vagueness to them, we're not sure exactly what it's going to do. With each one of these bills, it's very clear what they're going to accomplish.

I'm proud to support these bills and move them through our Subcommittee.