

## Energy and Commerce Member Day- Testimony

Chair McMorris-Rogers, Ranking Member Pallone – Thank you for hosting today’s Member Hearing.

I appreciate the time you are giving to Members like myself, who are not on this Committee, but share your deep concern for reforming issues within the jurisdiction of it.

I am honored to have the privilege of speaking with you today about an issue you are all too familiar with, and that is the dire need to reform our health care industry and the federal government’s role in the health care system.

My district, the Fourth District of Arkansas, is large and rural, and while I have the privilege of advocating for a wide variety of people from all walks of life, what they all share in common is their frustration with the cost and low availability of care.

We also face a higher risk of losing vital health services due to the unique challenges facing rural areas.

Health care costs continue to rise across the board, and your committee has done extraordinary work shining a light on the cost of care.

While the U.S. pays exorbitantly higher costs for health care than most other developed nations, we continue to have worse outcomes and less access.

The industry likes to point fingers. Patients blame doctors, who blame hospitals, who blame insurance companies, who blame Pharmaceutical Benefit Managers (PBMs), who blame drug manufacturers, but in the end they all point to the government.

While the blame game continues, Arkansans and all Americans are struggling with inflation and high costs.

While some continue to advocate for greater government intervention and market manipulation, I have a different proposal.

My solution, the Fair Care Act, returns competition to the health care marketplace, lowers prices for drugs, coverage, and care, and gives every American the ability to take control of decisions affecting their health care.

I am proud to have seen so many policies similar to Fair Care become part of other legislative packages that have passed committees with resounding bipartisanship.

Such as in your very own recently introduced Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

While price transparency is a necessary first step, I believe more still has to be done to fix the deeply imbedded faults that lie within the system to truly empower the consumer and patient.

My answer to our nation's health care crisis, is the most comprehensive bipartisan package that addresses the root causes of many of the perverse incentives and burdensome regulations that plague our system and that could actually pass the Senate and become law.

It is composed of four main parts. The first modernizes Health Savings Accounts by combining the various savings accounts, from HSAs to MSAs, into one, pre-tax health care spending account that can be used for a broad range of medical expenses, including insurance premiums and Direct Primary Care.

The second part improves private health insurance by strengthening market-based exchanges and lowering premiums to give more personalized health plan options.

The third and fourth parts, reform hospital, provider, insurer, and prescription drug practices, as well as Medicare and Medicaid to

further increase transparency, lower costs, and ensure program solvency.

These broad-ranging solutions come from many pieces of legislation, stakeholder input, and have been reviewed and refined from several health care policy experts.

I hope this legislation can stimulate conversation and serve as a starting point for how we can take the next steps to reform the broken health care system.

I thank you again for welcoming me today, and I look forward to working with you, to solve this problem not only for our current constituents, but as a solid foundation for those to come.