

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery  
of  
Vice Ranking Member Lizzie Fletcher**

***Member Day Hearing***

**December 12, 2025**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to all the members who are joining us here today at the Energy and Commerce Committee.

This Committee has a long history of working together to address the issues that matter most to the American people and will make a meaningful difference in their lives. It's what this Committee does at its best and it's why it's so important that we hear from our colleagues today that represent communities across the country to learn more about what they're hearing and what people need from their elected officials right now.

I know when I go back home, what I hear most about from people in my district is that the cost of living is too high, that health care premiums are soaring, and that energy bills are rising. In short, we're in a national affordability crisis and people need our help.

Addressing rising costs shouldn't be a partisan issue. In fact, on the campaign trail President Trump promised over and over again that he was going to lower costs, but nearly a year into his Administration costs are higher than ever.

President Trump recently dismissed affordability as a "Democratic hoax," but what I'm hearing from my constituents isn't a hoax, it's fear. Fear that they won't be able to afford their energy bills. Fear that they're not going to be able to keep their health insurance next year because their premiums are about to double or triple. Fear that they won't be able to afford groceries. This isn't a hoax, this is people's lives, and they need our help.

Unfortunately, much of this Congress has been spent making things worse for hardworking American families rather than helping them. Republicans spent the vast majority of this year passing President Trump's Big Ugly Bill, which will take health care away from 15 million people and leave millions more struggling to afford their care.

People need Congress to come together to lower costs with commonsense proposals like extending the Affordable Care Act tax credits, which would help lower premiums for millions of families. Instead, Republicans are choosing to spend their time taking health care away and making it more expensive for those who manage to keep their coverage.

Today, we have an opportunity to listen to our colleagues about rising costs and how they are a real threat to American families. And I hope that the majority will work with us to address those concerns and not just dismiss them as a hoax.

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So, I look forward to hearing from the members joining us today and thank them for taking time to be here. And with that, I yield back.