

Committee on Energy and Commerce Member Day Hearing
Testimony from Congressman Gabe Amo (RI-01)
December 12, 2025

- Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.
- It's an honor to work together to protect consumers, strengthen health care, and improve the lives of Rhode Islanders and all Americans.
- **First, I want to speak to the persistent crisis of health care affordability.**
- I hear from constituents that health care costs are skyrocketing. It's one of the most urgent challenges facing families.
- Republicans slashed over \$1 trillion from our health care system and ripped health insurance away from more than 39,000 Rhode Islanders in their Big, Ugly Law. It will have devastating consequences.
- These cuts hurt everyone — when people lose coverage and providers are forced to do more with less, the stability of our entire health care system is at risk, and everyone pays more.
- I look forward to working with this Committee to ensure our constituents have access to reliable, affordable health care.
- **Second, we must defend robust, sustained investment in scientific and medical research through the National Institutes of Health.**
- Last year alone, researchers in Rhode Island received more than \$256 million in NIH support for work on Alzheimer's disease, dementia, heart disease, diabetes prevention, and many other conditions, along with over \$21 million dedicated to student training. This research and training will save lives.

- NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya (bhuh-taa-chaar-yuh) named “training future biomedical scientists” as a top priority. Yet, Trump’s NIH funded 896 fewer early career grants this year, supporting the lowest number of researchers in nearly 10 years.
- The United States leads the world in biomedical research because of consistent NIH investment. When Trump underfunds the NIH, we delay cures, stall promising treatment pipelines, and risk losing an entire generation of researchers.
- That is why I led a letter with Representatives DeGette, Sanchez, Fletcher, and Houlahan, joined by a majority of the House Democratic Caucus, opposing Trump’s illegal slashing of reimbursement rates for cutting edge research.
- I urge this Committee to defend robust NIH funding and reject proposals that put lifesaving research at risk.
- **Third, I want to highlight my bipartisan Having Overdose Protection Equipment Act.**
- New England has been struck hard by the opioid crisis. While harm reduction tools like Naloxone have helped reduce fatal overdoses in Rhode Island by 36% in recent years, there is still more work to do.
- That’s why I introduced the *HOPE Act*. Just like putting AEDs in schools and libraries has saved countless Americans from cardiac arrest, putting Naloxone in public places will save lives and restore hope. This bill would make it easier for states to make Naloxone available in public spaces so bystanders can step up and use this lifesaving intervention if they see someone experiencing an overdose.
- I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee, including Congressman Tonko, a cosponsor of the bill to advance this bipartisan bill.
- **Finally, I want to address the growing threat of scams targeting the American people.**

- Scams have become a nationwide crisis — increasingly sophisticated, tech-driven, and devastating for families, seniors, and small businesses in every community, including Rhode Island.
- The impact of scams is deeply personal. When people are scammed, they don't just lose money — hard-earned savings, confidence, and independence is taken from them.
- Seniors are often hit the hardest, with money stolen from older adults soaring from **\$600 million in 2020 to \$2.4 billion in 2024.**
- That is why I helped launch the bipartisan Stop Scams Caucus with my fellow co-chairs Congressmen Shreve, Raskin, and Nunn to strengthen enforcement, expand public education, and ensure Americans have the tools and resources to stay safe.
- I also introduced a bipartisan, bicameral *National Strategy for Combating Scams Act* to bring together over a dozen federal agencies and the private sector to create a national strategy for combating scams, and standardize definitions and reporting standards. I urge the committee to support moving this bipartisan bill so we can help crack down on scams and protect consumers.
- In closing, I look forward to continuing our work together to lower health care costs, champion scientific research, combat the opioid epidemic through the HOPE Act, and protect Americans from scams.
- I appreciate your partnership in delivering on these priorities for my constituents in Rhode Island and those across the country.
- Thank you and I yield back.