

House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Remarks of Representative John W. Mannion
E&C Member Day
December 12, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, and members of the full Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today. Today, I want to share what I'm hearing from my constituents in NY-22 regarding the healthcare crisis and energy affordability.

Across Central New York and the Mohawk Valley, people are afraid of what these rising healthcare costs mean for them and their loved ones. If Congress doesn't act quickly and in a bipartisan way, seniors and working families will soon have to choose between the medications they need or paying their bills and putting food on the table. Small business owners who want to do right by their employees are afraid they'll no longer be able to keep the lights on.

It's a shame then that over the past year my Republican colleagues were laser-focused on passing the largest cuts to health care in our history. And now, they seem poised to let the subsidies that help millions of Americans make ends meet expire at the end of this year. These cuts will impact all of us. When essential services are gutted, health centers face insurmountable shortfalls, people are forced to drop their coverage, everything gets more expensive, and we all pay more to get less.

I hope that the members of this committee can set politics aside and forget about the demands of the billionaire class to instead focus on delivering real healthcare solutions for working families. Before Congress adjourns for the holidays, let's extend the enhanced premium tax credits to prevent premiums from spiking and give individuals and small businesses some certainty so we can avoid this healthcare crisis the President and majority party here in Congress have inflicted on the American people. I'd also like to speak today about the need to address rising energy costs and urge the Committee to work on creative federal solutions to expand access to more affordable energy for consumers.

On average, New York State residents have experienced a \$190 annual increase in electricity spending over the past year. In my Congressional District, NY22, utility bills have recently increased by more than 10 percent and it's expected that average households will see a \$600 annual increase over the next three years. I'd like to share with you some of the concerns my constituents have shared with me recently in letters to my office:

Michelle from Cortland wrote to me, "My husband and I are paying the equivalent of a mortgage to keep heating our home.... Our friends and neighbors are also paying \$700-\$1000 per month in electricity even with similar or decreased usage.

Owen, from Cazenovia, wrote: "Over the last year, my electricity costs have surged - despite making every attempt to minimize use and leverage smart technologies, such as connected thermostats, installation of heat pumps, switching to all LED bulbs, and more. Despite incurring the expense associated with these upgrades, we have only seen our bills rise - with no end in sight."

Kelly from Waterville saw her bill go from \$115 in September to \$713 in November.

And Ursula from Morrisville wrote to me, ending her letter by saying: "Long story short, everyone's bills have increased, doubling, tripling in size. My bill last month is over \$800! I used less electricity this billing period than the same time last year, where the bill was around \$300." These rates are unsustainable. Folks are having to choose between buying groceries, paying for gas, paying for their healthcare premiums, and heating their homes as temperatures drop and winter storms hit the region.

As more data centers and energy intensive projects get added to the grid, we cannot let consumers get stuck with the tab. I urge this committee to keep consumers and their rising energy costs in mind as it considers legislation or provides feedback to the administration on regulatory action. Americans need more affordable energy options, and I urge this committee to work with members on creative solutions that will both support US energy dominance but also lower costs for consumers.

Thank you and I yield back.