

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of**

Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Diana DeGette

Hearing on “Lowering Health Care Costs for All Americans: Examining Policies to Increase Health Care Transparency”

June 10, 2026

Today, we are considering several bills relating to transparency throughout the health care system. Health care is too expensive and too complex. Looking after your health—finding a doctor that takes your insurance, scheduling, figuring out exactly what it’s going to cost you, and figuring out how to pay for it—is difficult at best, if not impossible.

I have long supported price and policy transparency throughout the health system, and I look forward to bringing more of it. We need transparency to inform policy next steps and to help researchers understand exactly how prices got so out of control—and how to bring them down.

Sunlight, as they say, is the best disinfectant, and on that we all agree. So let’s have a little sunlight on H.R. 1, which I call the Big Bad Bill.

Last year, my Democratic colleagues and I warned it would result sick people losing their health care and more uninsured Americans. In particular, we warned that new paperwork requirements would simply add red tape for people who need health care. The majority called us bombastic, accused us of engaging in scare tactics, and even called us liars.

I’d like to enter two documents into the record.

The first is a June 22, 2025 piece from the New York Post written by the Chairman, which states “you’re exempt if you’re medically frail, which includes anyone who’s blind, disabled, battling a chronic substance-use disorder or living with a serious and complex medical condition like cancer.”

The second is the rule implementing the Chairman and Donald Trump’s Big Bad Bill, which specifically states that cancer in itself is actually not sufficient for an exemption from the red tape created by this awful law.

That’s right—we saw this coming, we warned of it, we implored the majority not to go forward with this disastrous policy. And the results are clear: the implementation of the Big Bad Bill contradicts how this majority attempted to sell it to the American people, and sick people are going to be kicked off care as a result.

But remember, the point of these paperwork requirements was never to make people healthier. The majority wanted to give tax handouts to the wealthiest Americans, so they found some money in Medicaid—in health care for poor and working-class Americans—by creating this policy which ignores the reality that health care is not some reward for working, but a prerequisite to being stable and productive.

This year, since the majority forced through the Big Bad Bill and refused to work with us to extend enhanced ACA subsidies, Americans are losing insurance and seeing their costs go up. 80 percent of returning marketplace enrollees say they're seeing higher costs this year, and 51 percent say those costs are "a lot" higher. As of March, 37 percent of marketplace enrollees were cutting back on necessities like food to afford health insurance.

Transparency in prices is great, and it is necessary—but it doesn't help the five million people who are estimated to lose ACA marketplace coverage this year thanks to the Big Bad Bill and failure to extend enhanced subsidies. And it doesn't help the 7.5 million people that CBO estimates will lose Medicaid coverage due to the Big Bad Bill.

Mr. Chairman, we do need to pass legislation relating to transparency. But it defies reason that we are just turning to this bipartisan priority 18 months into this Congress—AFTER the majority did untold damage to our health care system with the Big Bad Bill and Donald Trump and RFK Jr. have shredded our public health agencies.

Now, the largest Ebola outbreak in years is active in central Africa, and the once-formidable Energy and Commerce Committee is nowhere to be found. Every single one of my Democratic colleagues and I have asked for a hearing on infectious disease responses so that the American people can understand what's happening and what we need to do to meet the moment.

I look forward to getting that hearing scheduled imminently, and I yield back.