

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health Member Raul Ruiz

Hearing on “Examining Policies to Enhance Seniors’ Access to Breakthrough Medical Technologies”

September 18, 2025

President Trump and Congressional Republicans have created a healthcare crisis and waged a war on the American health care system.

Since beginning of the year, President Trump and Congressional Republicans have launched attacks on Americans’ health care, dismantled our public health, and ripped away coverage from millions of Americans.

They are now continuing to put fuel on the fire and marching forward towards a government shutdown. I call on my Republican colleagues to stop the chaos and instead work with us to lower health care costs for working families.

President Trump and Congressional Republicans’ Big Ugly Law cuts more than a trillion dollars from our health care system and takes coverage away from fifteen million people. Already – just two months after enactment – we are hearing from hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes across the country that have been forced to close their doors and cut services.

In rural Lavonia, Georgia, St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital just announced that it will shut down its maternity unit next month, pointing to “recent Congressional cuts to Medicaid”. That means expectant mothers traveling further because Republicans claimed that Medicaid payments for birthing babies is “waste, fraud, and abuse.”

Another example, in rural Virginia, Augusta Medical Group is closing an urgent care and two primary care clinics, again citing their “ongoing response” to Republicans’ Big, Ugly Law.

This is only going to get worse, unless we reverse these devastating cuts. Congressional Republicans are also taking away tax credits that help pay for million of Americans’ health care bills.

Thanks to the enhanced tax credits included in the Inflation Reduction Act, a record-breaking total of 24.3 million Americans have coverage through the ACA Marketplaces. Millions of families have been able to afford health care and have seen the cost of their monthly insurance premiums go down.

Republicans are now actively taking away these tax credits, and health insurance premiums are about to skyrocket for millions of working families.

I must also comment on this Committee's lapse in oversight on the devastating actions by Secretary Kennedy, as he remakes the Department of Health and Human Services into his personal anti-science and anti-public health soapbox and manufactures a national vaccine crisis. As I am speaking, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is meeting to vote – despite years of scientific evidence and against the clinical guidelines of major provider associations and outside experts – to restrict or alter life saving vaccines for children and adults.

These decisions, as former CDC Director Monarez testified yesterday, will cause the resurgence of preventable disease, as we have seen Measles, and will undoubtedly "... have children harmed by things that we know they do not need to be harmed by."

Every district represented on this Committee will be affected by the shameful politically driven, predetermined actions by RFK's handpicked ACIP.