

Committee on Energy and Commerce

**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health
Ranking Member Diana DeGette**

Markup of 7 Bills, Subcommittee on Health

September 10, 2025

Today, we are marking up seven public health bills that I am proud to support.

However, Mr. Chairman, this markup is another missed opportunity to make progress on the December health package that we all agreed to.

We, the minority of this committee, have been offering a hand in securing bipartisan wins for the American people.

And the majority has shown absolutely no interest in working with us on this.

Instead, this majority spent the first several months of the year developing legislation to rip health care away from 15 million Americans.

We have pressing issues to deal with, and instead the majority is just creating new problems while ignoring others.

I'd like to add to the record the list of policies that we all agreed on and still, for frankly unknown reasons, have not gotten done.

Because every single Republican I have spoken to has told me that it's their priority to move all these bipartisan policies, including reauthorizing the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act, increasing funding for the Special Diabetes Programs, ensuring kids on Medicaid can get care across state lines, and much, much more.

But there has been no movement.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to enter a summary of all these policies into the record.

What's more, many policies we all support expire at the end of this month.

For instance, Medicare's ability to broadly cover telehealth services expires in two and a half weeks, and we are not talking about it.

Mr. Chairman, you are in charge of this committee and you set the agenda.

It's much past time to put words into action and prioritize these bipartisan policies.

Let's take the package and consider it in a full committee markup next week.

Mr. Chairman, last week every Democratic member of this subcommittee sent you a letter asking for a hearing with RFK Jr., and former CDC director Susan Monarez.

As you know, Dr. Monarez was fired after she refused to rubber stamp unscientific and dangerous vaccine recommendations and fire respected senior CDC staff.

Three senior CDC leaders resigned in protest after her firing.

Then, last week, Secretary Kennedy—who was not under oath—accused Dr. Monarez of lying about the circumstances surrounding her firing.

Secretary Kennedy said—again, while not under oath—quote, “I told her that she had to resign because I asked her, ‘are you a trustworthy person?’ and she said, ‘no.’”

Dr. Monarez would testify about this laughable statement under oath, and Secretary Kennedy should as well.

It is the responsibility of this subcommittee to hear from Dr. Monarez and Secretary Kennedy about the circumstances surrounding her firing and the current state of HHS.

Now, Dr. Monarez is set to testify before the Senate HELP Committee.

Are they doing our job for us? Have we completely abdicated our responsibility to the Senate?

So, Mr. Chairman, did you receive our letter? When are we going to have this hearing?

Having a hearing examining political interference and public health decisions being made based on ideology rather than data is the bare minimum that we can do.