



# **Energy and Commerce Committee Mid-Session Review**

**113th Congress | Second Session  
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## **Introduction**

The U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce continues to be a legislative workhorse, advancing a wide array of bills addressing some of our nation's most pressing challenges and opportunities. The committee's jurisdiction spans everything from energy and environmental policy to public health, telecommunications, consumer protection, trade, and more. What these issues have in common is their consequence for the American economy – from individual family budgets to major nationwide investments, the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee is at the center of Republican efforts to encourage job creation, support middle-class families, and strengthen our economy overall.

This report summarizes key initiatives and accomplishments of the Energy and Commerce Committee in the first six months of 2014 under the chairmanship of Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI). It is the third such report on the committee's work in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress; information on the Energy and Commerce Committee's accomplishments in 2013 is [available online](#) through the committee's website, one of numerous ways the committee has sought to make its work more transparent and open to the public.

## **National Landscape**

The Energy and Commerce Committee's work in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress comes against a backdrop of some troubling economic and global indicators. U.S. gross domestic product declined sharply in the first quarter of 2014, making it our economy's worst quarter in nearly five years. For the fourth year in a row, drivers face gasoline prices averaging more than \$3.50 per gallon. Turmoil in the Middle East is threatening to drive oil prices higher, while Russia's aggression against Ukraine is affecting global natural gas markets.

Here at home, new technologies and American innovation are offering tremendous opportunities. The challenge is to ensure U.S. policy is helping, rather than hindering, these amazing prospects for growth. For example, there are near daily stories of medical breakthroughs, newfound energy abundance, and new communications tools. Each of these innovations can credit technology as the impetus in its development, and each must have the right governmental policies to be able to reach its full potential. This is not because government is the driving force behind its advancement, but rather because governmental burdens may be standing in the way of unleashing the full benefits.

## **Committee Priorities**

Recognizing these challenges and opportunities, the Energy and Commerce Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Upton and Vice Chairman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), began the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress in January 2013 with three primary goals: 1) promoting job creation and economic growth, 2) transforming Washington to create a smaller, modernized government for the innovation era, and 3) protecting families, communities, and civic initiatives. These goals remain the driving forces behind the work of the committee today, with a major emphasis on how these objectives can work together to allow the U.S. to take full advantage of the technological advances discussed above.

## Key Hearings and Initiatives

### *Promoting Job Creation and Economic Growth*

**The Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee**, led by Chairman Lee Terry (R-NE) and Vice Chairman Leonard Lance (R-NJ), plays a significant role in the committee's efforts to support job creation and economic growth. With its jurisdiction over a wide range of consumer and economic areas, the panel has focused in recent years on everything from the U.S. manufacturing sector to vehicle safety to foreign direct investment and much more. In 2014, one of the subcommittee's major initiatives has been its effort to clamp down on so-called patent trolls, entities that use the threat of patent litigation to intimidate and extract payment from American businesses, including innovators and small businesses. The subcommittee held a pair of hearings to pave the way for legislation that strikes the important balance of protecting intellectual property rights while preventing abusive and costly practices that harm innovation and job creation in America.

**The Communications and Technology Subcommittee**, led by Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Vice Chairman Bob Latta (R-OH), is likewise a hub of activity related to job creation and economic growth. The communications sector remains an economic bright spot, attracting both investment and innovation as new technologies translate to new jobs and entirely new industries. As part of its effort to explore and foster these opportunities, the subcommittee explored a range of issues from media ownership to oversight designed to protect the freedom of the global Internet, which is itself a major driver of economic growth in the U.S. and around the world.

With its focus on a range of bills designed to use the United States' newfound energy abundance to spur economic growth, **the Energy and Power Subcommittee** under Chairman Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and Vice Chairman Steve Scalise (R-LA) has similarly been home to key policies that will support job creation. Hearings in 2014 have helped set the stage for significant legislation, including Rep. Scalise's Promoting New Manufacturing Act and Rep. Cory Gardner's (R-CO) Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

Led by Chairman John Shimkus (R-IL) and Vice Chairman Phil Gingrey (R-GA), **the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee** has economic concerns in its name, its core mission, and certainly among its hearing record in 2014. The panel launched a major review of chemical regulation in 2013 and continued the work this year with multiple hearings and a draft proposal to improve public confidence in chemical safety and improve opportunities for job growth by facilitating enhanced interstate commerce.

**The Health Subcommittee**, led by Chairman Joe Pitts (R-PA) and Vice Chairman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), recognizes that health care is a major economic issue, with our health care system responsible, by some estimates, for one-sixth or more of the U.S. economy. Whether it is the impact of health care costs on individual family budgets or the cost of our health care system to the federal budget or the consequences of the health care law to employers, health is, quite simply, a jobs issue. To that end, the subcommittee continued its work this year examining the consequences of the health care law and its specific costs through a series of hearings that

covered topics including the fiscal solvency of the Medicare program, the prospects for health information technology to create jobs here in America, and how regulatory uncertainty is harming the health sector.

**The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee**, led by Chairman Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Vice Chairman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), uses all of the investigative tools at its disposal to hold agencies and organizations accountable to the American people. Particularly at a time of continued economic uncertainty, a key part of that effort is exposing government policies that are standing in the way of job creation and economic growth. Hearings and investigations convened by O&I this year to support jobs and our economy include extensive oversight of the health care law and its consequences for job creators and the U.S. economy as a whole as well as continued examinations of how the Department of Energy and EPA are complying with the law and how their policies affect coal communities.

### *Transforming Washington to Create a Smaller, Modernized Government for the Innovation Era*

The Energy and Commerce Committee recognizes that federal agencies established in another era are ill-equipped to oversee and support the industries and innovations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These agencies struggle to help – and too often hinder – our ability to take full advantage of the opportunities of the innovation era. That is why the CMT Subcommittee has focused this year on the Federal Trade Commission, an agency that in 2014 is marking its 100-year anniversary. A century after its creation, it is time for Congress to assess the agency’s mission and function to ensure it makes sense today and into the future.

Perhaps the most comprehensive effort by the Energy and Commerce Committee to bring outdated laws and agencies into the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the C&T Subcommittee’s #CommActUpdate. Launched in December 2013, it is a multi-year effort to solicit public input and explore opportunities to update the laws governing the communications and technology sector, which were written in 1934 and have not been updated in nearly 20 years. In addition to a hearing, the subcommittee has issued a series of white papers to examine and gather public input on key issues facing the communications marketplace. The C&T Subcommittee’s work also includes continued oversight of the Federal Communications Commission, with hearings on the agency’s budget and operations, as well as its work on specific issues such as media ownership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The E&P Subcommittee, with its oversight of federal agencies including the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has focused this year on how these agencies are responding to the new era of U.S. energy abundance and whether the administration’s policies are allowing us to make the most of our vast resources and technological advances. In a word, the answer is no: regulatory uncertainty and missed opportunities for expanded energy production are preventing the U.S. from reaching its full potential for job creation and economic growth. The subcommittee has worked to expose these flawed policies – rooted in obsolete ideas about energy scarcity – and replace them with forward-looking policies for a modern American energy strategy. This includes a pair of hearings early in the year examining the benefits and challenges of energy access in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A key priority that has emerged for the

subcommittee is the need to build a modern energy infrastructure to bring energy from where it is produced to the consumers who need it.

The E&E Subcommittee has also worked to bring federal environmental law, and the agencies overseeing it, into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The previously mentioned effort to improve chemical regulation is a meaningful effort to update the decades-old Toxic Substances Control Act. While some parts of this 1976 law have proven to be successful, implementation of other portions have been frustrated by legal challenges, spawning disputes about TSCA's overall effectiveness to facilitate U.S. chemical manufacturing and use in the face of industry advancements and increased interstate commerce. Through hearings, the subcommittee helped set the stage for future reforms and draw attention to the consequences of a law that has not been updated to reflect new realities. The subcommittee also continued its longstanding efforts to conduct oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency with a hearing reviewing its budget and policies.

The Health Subcommittee has done extensive work this year highlighting how outdated government agencies, regulations, and practices are stymieing the potential for health breakthroughs. To expose and erase these gaps between the science of cures and the regulatory systems in place to approve them, the full committee launched the bipartisan 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures initiative – a concerted effort to review the entire cycle of discovery, development, and delivery to identify ways to bring a decades-old regulatory system into the innovation era. This has included hearings, roundtables, and a series of white papers soliciting input from health innovators, investors, regulators, researchers, patients, and practitioners. As the committee has made clear, modernizing the process by which we research and approve new treatments and cures has the potential to be a game-changer for patients and can solidify America's position as a global leader in health innovation.

The work of the O&I Subcommittee is at the core of committee efforts to modernize government for the innovation era, because very often the first step in identifying needed reforms is to use oversight to root out areas where outdated government agencies and programs are working poorly. To that end, the subcommittee's work on a broad range of issues – from energy to health care to motor vehicle safety – has included careful scrutiny of agency operations with an eye toward their adherence to the law and how their function and mission could be improved to better serve Americans today and into the future. The subcommittee's signature issue in 2014 has been its continued work on our nation's systems for treating individuals suffering from serious mental illness, and it is clear that solutions will be found by scrutinizing how current federal programs are structured and identifying reforms that will better serve patients, families, and communities.

#### *Protecting Families, Communities, and Civic Initiatives*

The CMT Subcommittee has a long history in support of consumer protection, which includes not just federal statutes but efforts to oversee and highlight initiatives undertaken in states and communities. Key hearings that focused on consumer protection issues in 2014 include the subcommittee's work on preventing and responding to breaches of consumers' personal data online and its efforts to highlight sports safety risks – including head injuries, particularly among

youth athletes – and draw attention to prevention programs to keep young people safe on the playing field.

The C&T Subcommittee's work protecting the non-governmental institutions in American life includes its strong defense of Internet freedom, with substantial work done this year to ensure governance of the web maintains the core principles that have made the Internet a source of democracy, innovation, and economic growth. America's longstanding responsibility managing key Internet functions demonstrates how a limited governmental role has allowed the private sector to flourish and helped spread freedom and democracy around the globe. Before any plan can move forward to transition these functions, committee Republicans are working to ensure the Internet cannot fall under the control of authoritarian regimes that would undermine its basic freedoms and function or multilateral international agencies that would undermine the bottom-up nature of Internet governance.

The E&P Subcommittee has likewise focused this year on ensuring federal overreach does not infringe on the work of states and local communities to protect and support their citizens and advance our economy. Key to this effort is reviewing rules such as EPA's recently released greenhouse gas regulations for power plants, both new and existing, which throw off the traditional balance between states and the federal government in promoting clean air and managing our nation's energy needs. The subcommittee held the first public hearing on the new rules, asking a series of tough questions about the agency's authority to regulate in this area, the feasibility of implementation plans, and the consequences for states and consumers.

The E&E Subcommittee has also made the federal-state balance on environmental rules a priority not just this year, but in prior years as well. The subcommittee has focused on clearly identifying those areas where a uniform federal standard makes sense – such as with its efforts to modernize chemical regulation – while also recognizing that states are uniquely suited to manage these concerns in other areas such as the management of coal residuals. Striking the appropriate balance between state and federal environmental regulation is a key priority of the subcommittee, and one that will continue to be explored in the coming months to ensure strong, sensible protections for our environment that do not hamstring our economy.

The Health Subcommittee plays a central role in the committee's efforts to limit and target federal functions so that states and local communities, and institutions both public and private, are free to innovate and improve outcomes for patients. The subcommittee has continued to expose the perils of excess federal intervention in the health care system, highlighting how the heavy-handed requirements in Obamacare are resulting in canceled plans, smaller provider networks, higher out-of-pocket costs for patients, and fewer health care choices. Their work includes numerous hearings on Medicare, including efforts to expose how the administration's efforts to squeeze out the private-sector partnerships in Part D and Medicare Advantage are harming seniors.

With its unique responsibility for conducting oversight of federal agencies and programs, the O&I Subcommittee has likewise focused its efforts on the appropriate role for the federal government while also giving careful scrutiny to both private actors and states and local initiatives. Two examples are the subcommittee's investigation of the General Motors ignition

switch recall and the subcommittee's work on mental health issues. Regarding the GM investigation, the panel has focused equally on the actions of GM itself as well as its federal regulator, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The panel recognizes that there is responsibility for vehicle safety both among the federal regulators and within the company itself. Regarding mental health, the subcommittee's investigation is notable for its comprehensive nature, examining not just a narrow set of federal initiatives, but the entirety of federal spending and programs across agencies along with the efforts, laws, and privacy protections in place at the state level.

## **Key Legislation**

Following are brief summaries of legislation advanced by the Energy and Commerce Committee in the first six months of 2014.

**H.R. 3527, the Poison Center Network Act, authored by Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE).** The bill reauthorizes funding for our nation's poison control centers, which provide a lifeline for families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with critical information when there is no time to waste. The centers help our health system save money because many of these crisis calls can avert a costly visit to the emergency room, and they are a public-private success story with federal funds providing only a small portion of the poison centers budget. The bill was signed into law by President Obama on January 24, 2014.

**H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, authored by Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA).** The bill protects seniors' access to Medicare physicians by temporarily extending protections to ensure Medicare payments are not immediately slashed. This bill was offered after the House of Representatives advanced a bipartisan, long-term, fully paid for solution to the flawed SGR formula that has plagued the Medicare program for more than a decade. In the absence of action from the Senate, this measure was offered to prevent a 24 percent cut to Medicare physician reimbursement rates and ensure that seniors will have access to their doctors. It was signed into law on April 1, 2014.

**H.R. 3717, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013, authored by Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA).** Since the beginning of the 113th Congress, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee has examined mental health resources and programs across throughout the federal government to discern how federal dollars devoted to research and treatment into mental illness are being prioritized and spent. Based on the findings of this extensive and wide-ranging examination, Chairman Murphy introduced H.R. 3717 to reorient federal funding for mental health to improve the delivery of mental health services and help improve the lives of mental health patients and their families, especially those individuals with serious mental illness. Two key components of H.R. 3717 were included in H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, which was signed into law on April 1, 2014. The first provision will help local jurisdictions implement assisted outpatient treatment grant programs for individuals with serious mental illness, and the second will establish a demonstration program to improve access to community mental health services.

**H.R. 3116, the MODDERN Cures Act of 2013, authored by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ).** A major provision of MODDERN Cures was included in H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, which was signed into law on April 1, 2014. The MODDERN Cures provision reforms the Medicare lab fee schedule by adopting market-based private sector payment rates for molecular diagnostics.

**H.R. 846, the Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act of 2013, authored by Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX).** H.R. 846 was included in H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, which was signed into law on April 1, 2014. This provision establishes CT equipment radiation dose standards for purposes of payment under the Medicare program in order to protect the health and welfare of beneficiaries. It also sets into place appropriate use criteria for imaging services paid to medical providers under the Medicare program.

**H.R. 2995, the Unnecessary Cap Act of 2013, authored by Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY).** H.R. 2995 was included in H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, which was signed into law on April 1, 2014. H.R. 2995 repeals Section 1302(c)(2) of the Affordable Care Act and thus eliminates deductible limitations on small group health plans, protecting American small businesses and their employees from premium increases.

**H.R. 1263, the Excellence in Mental Health Act, authored by Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) and Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ).** H.R. 1263 was included in H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, which was signed into law on April 1, 2014. It establishes a demonstration program to improve access to community mental health services.

**H.R. 2019, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act, authored by Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS).** The bill prioritizes funding for the research of pediatric diseases and disorders such as cancer, autism, and Fragile X. It eliminates taxpayer financing of party conventions and used these funds to expand pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health through the NIH Common Fund. The Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act was signed into law on April 3, 2014.

**S. 1557 (H.R. 297), the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013, led in the House by Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA).** S. 1557 was signed into law by President Obama on April 7, 2014. The bill provides support to children's hospitals for their pediatric medical residency programs.

**H.R. 724, authored by Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH),** amends the Clean Air Act to eliminate the unnecessary requirement for auto dealers to provide certification of emissions standards compliance for new light-duty motor vehicles. This exemplifies the type of outdated, unnecessary requirement on the private sector that the committee has worked to identify and eliminate. The bill was signed into law by President Obama on June 9, 2014.

**H.R. 3675, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act, authored by Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR).** This bipartisan legislation requires the FCC to make certain changes to its rules within one year, with the goal of improving agency processes and making the commission more transparent, efficient, and accountable. The bill requires the commission to

seek comment and adopt rules that set minimum comment periods for rulemaking proceedings; allow time for public comment by eliminating the practice of placing large amounts of data into the record on the last day of the public comment period; increase transparency regarding items before the commissioners; require publication of the text of proposed rules; and set timelines for FCC action on certain types of proceedings. The bill was approved by the House on March 11, 2014.

**H.R. 4342, the Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters (DOTCOM) Act of 2014, authored by Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL).** The bill would require the Obama administration to pause on any changes regarding the future of the Internet and allow for an independent evaluation. It was drafted in response to the administration's requests that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) explore ways to remove the United States from its oversight role of the Domain Name System (DNS). H.R. 4342 would direct the Government Accountability Office to study the proposed changes and present a non-partisan evaluation before the administration may take action to modify the U.S. Role in the DNS. It was approved in the House as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act on May 22, 2014.

**H.R. 2126, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2014, authored by Reps. David McKinley (R-WV), Peter Welch (D-VT), Ed Whitfield (R-KY), Mike Rogers (R-MI), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Cathy Castor (D-FL).** The bill combines four energy efficiency measures, reflecting the committee's continued commitment to sensible solutions that will save energy and reduce costs without imposing burdensome mandates. The bill includes the Better Buildings Act, a measure to modify efficiency for grid-enabled water heaters, the Energy Efficient Government Technology Act, and a measure to provide energy information for commercial buildings. The combined package was approved in the House on March 5, 2014.

**H.R. 3683, authored by committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman (D-CA),** amends the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to strengthen the collaboration between the United States and Israel on energy development. The bill was approved in the House as part of H.R. 938, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, on March 5, 2014.

**H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, authored by Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY).** The bill would require that any greenhouse gas standards set by EPA for new coal-fired plants can be achieved by commercial power plants operating in the real world, including highly efficient plants that utilize the most modern, state-of-the-art emissions control technologies. The legislation also provides that Congress would set the effective date for EPA regulation of existing fossil fuel-fired power plants, ensuring new greenhouse gas regulations for existing plants would be subject to congressional oversight and review. The bill was approved by the House on March 6, 2014.

**H.R. 316, the Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act.** The legislation provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with limited authority to reinstate two terminated hydroelectric licenses and transfer them to a new owner, the Town of Canton, Connecticut. The

House had previously approved the legislation in February 2013, and in late June took action to approve Senate changes. The bill was signed into law on June 30, 2014.

**H.R. 4092, the Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014.** This legislation would help our nation's schools reduce energy use and save money by establishing an online resource at DOE to serve as a one-stop-shop for information about available federal programs that can be used to increase energy efficiency. It was approved by the House on June 23, 2014.

**H.R. 4801, the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act, authored by Reps. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Jerry McNerney (D-CA).** This bipartisan legislation is designed to help identify opportunities for federal agencies to use energy and water more efficiently. The bill requires the Department of Energy to evaluate and report potential energy savings available to federal agencies through greater use of thermal insulation. It was approved by the House on June 23, 2014.

**H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, authored by Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO).** The legislation will help speed up the Department of Energy's approval of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports by placing a 30 day deadline on DOE to issue a final decision on applications to export LNG following the conclusion of the NEPA environmental review of the LNG facilities. It will also provide for expedited judicial review by the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the export facility will be located and require public disclosure of export destinations as a condition of approval of authorization to export LNG. Increasing U.S. LNG exports will create American jobs while offering our global allies access to a source of secure and affordable energy. The bill was approved in the House on June 25, 2014, with a bipartisan vote of 266-150.

**H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, authored by Reps. Fred Upton (R-MI) and Gene Green (D-TX).** The bill is a bipartisan effort to create a more modern and efficient cross-border approval process for oil pipelines, natural gas pipelines, and electric transmission lines that traverse the borders of the United States. Implementing a fair and standardized approval process for cross-border energy projects will help bring certainty to the regulatory process, encourage investment in job-creating energy infrastructure, and facilitate trade with our Canadian and Mexican allies. The bill was approved in the House on June 24, 2014, with a bipartisan vote of 238-173.

**H.R. 2279, authored by Reps. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Bill Johnson (R-OH), and Bob Latta (R-OH).** The bill is a package of reforms advanced by the Energy and Commerce Committee, including the Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act, the Federal and State Partnership for Environmental Protection Act, and the Federal Facility Accountability Act. The legislation seeks to modernize existing federal law, reduce red tape, and increase the role of the states in environmental cleanups under the Comprehensive Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The bill was approved by the House on January 9, 2014.

**H.R. 3811, the Health Exchange Security and Transparency Act of 2014, authored by Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA).** The bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to quickly notify Americans in the event that their personally identifiable information is jeopardized

on the health law's exchanges. The bill was approved by the House on January 10, 2014, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 291-122.

**H.R. 3362, the Exchange Information Disclosure Act, authored by Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE).** The bill requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide the American people and Congress weekly reports on the status of HealthCare.gov. These reports will provide key metrics regarding HealthCare.gov, including unique website visits, accounts created, qualified health plan selection, and Medicaid enrollment. The bill was approved in the House with a strong bipartisan vote of 259-154 on January 16, 2014.

**H.R. 4015, the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014, authored by Rep. Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX).** Reflecting three years of bipartisan collaboration, the bill repeals the broken Medicare physician payment structure and replaces it with a system focused on quality, value, and accountability. The bill was approved in the House on March 14, 2014, and while a temporary patch was necessary to ensure the program's continued stability, H.R. 4015 set the stage for a permanent fix to the program in the future.

**H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2013,** reauthorizes programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track and reduce the incidence of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and to provide support programs for TBI patients and their families. The bill was approved by the House on June 24, 2014.

**H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2013.** Prior to passage of this bill in 2008, the number and quality of newborn screening tests varied from state to state. Today, with guidelines created by the bill, screenings reach 4 million babies in the U.S. every year. Reauthorization will continue this important program and encourage more timely efforts to identify diseases, such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and ensure best practices. Early screening and diagnosis often means better disease management and better outcomes for these children. The bill was approved by the House on June 24, 2014.

**H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014, authored by Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH).** The bill is designed to correct the inconsistencies in the definitions of trauma that have resulted in gaps in care and coverage. The bill was approved by the House on June 24, 2014.

**H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, authored by Reps. Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX) and Gene Green (D-TX).** The bill would reauthorize two programs related to the planning and development of regional emergency care. This bill, along with H.R. 3548, will improve trauma care so that Americans can promptly receive specialized, life-saving treatment after a traumatic injury. The bill was approved by the House on June 24, 2014.

**H.R. 4631, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014 (the Autism CARES Act), authored by Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Michael Doyle (D-PA).** The bill would extend the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011 to continue federal research, early identification and intervention, and education related to autism as

well as the activities of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Community. The bill was approved by the House on June 24, 2014.

**H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014, authored by Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR), Fred Upton (R-MI), Henry Waxman (D-CA), and Anna Eshoo (D-CA).** The bill will ensure that 1.5 million subscribers in hard-to-reach areas continue to receive vital broadcast programming. It reauthorizes STELA for a period of five years and makes a number of targeted reforms to better meet the needs of today's video marketplace.

**H.R. 2689, the Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act of 2013, authored by Reps. Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Peter Welch (D-VT).** The bill facilitates the use of energy savings contracts to encourage private sector investment to upgrade the energy and water efficiency of federal facilities.

**H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, authored by Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA).** This legislation seeks to promote new manufacturing and job creation by increasing transparency and reducing permitting delays for air permits required under the Clean Air Act's New Source Review preconstruction permitting program. These permits may be subject to significant delays and regulatory uncertainty, as well as administrative appeals. The bill was approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee and awaits a House vote.

**H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014.** The bill is a bipartisan, pragmatic solution to the confusion that resulted from the DEA's interpretation of the Controlled Substances Act. Veterinary medicine is very unique because vets need to be able to travel to their patients to make "house calls." It simply isn't practical to bring large animals, such as cows, pigs or horses to the vets' primary place of business. This commonsense bill will enable vets to bring the medicines they need with them so they can provide proper care for their animal patients.

**H.R. 4709, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, authored by Reps. Tom Marino (R-PA) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), along with Reps. Peter Welch (D-VT), and Judy Chu (D-CA).** This bill would improve enforcement efforts regarding prescription drug diversion and abuse.

**H.R. 4299, the Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act, authored by Reps. Joe Pitts (R-PA) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ).** The bill would amend the Controlled Substances Act to improve efficiency, transparency, and consistency of the Drug Enforcement Agency's process for scheduling new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

### **More to Come**

The Energy and Commerce Committee is proud of its work thus far in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Over 60 committee bills have passed the House and over 15 enacted into law to promote job creation and economic growth, transform Washington to create a smaller, modernized government for the innovation era, and protect families, communities, and civic initiatives. These goals will continue

to be the touchstone for the panel's work in the coming months, and as members prepare to launch an aggressive agenda in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress beginning in January 2015.

The committee continues to prioritize an open, collaborative approach to legislating, inviting the American people to participate through white papers, social media, and events convened by members in districts around the country. Whether it's through the [#CommActUpdate](#) process, the [21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures](#) initiative, the work to build the Architecture of Abundance, or any of the other major initiatives undertaken by the committee, members of the Energy and Commerce Committee are committed to working with – and on behalf of – the American people to make the most of our nation's promise now and into the future.