

Opening Statement
Chairwoman Anna G. Eshoo
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Hearing on “The Fiscal Year and 2020 HHS Budget”
March 12, 2019

Today we welcome the Secretary of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to testify on the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

This is the first time Secretary Azar has testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee in the new Congress.

The Health Subcommittee is also Secretary Azar’s first stop during his visit to Capitol Hill to testify on the President’s Budget which was released yesterday. We’re pleased you started with us.

The President’s Budget reflects the priorities of an Administration, and I believe the priorities of this Administration are misdirected.

It’s clear this Administration has very different aspirations for our country and what our health care system should look like.

The Trump Administration has taken a hatchet to every part of our health care system, undermining the Affordable Care Act, proposing to fundamentally restructure Medicaid and slashing Medicare. This budget proposes to continue that sabotage,

In November, the American people rejected the vision for our country that this budget represents.

This Subcommittee has worked very hard over the past two months to examine ways to undo the sabotage of the Affordable Care Act and advance legislation that will bring down health care costs for the American people. And we will continue that work.

Secretary Azar, I hope that you’ll be a partner in our work to lower health care costs for the American people and we welcome your testimony.

