

Opening Statement
Chairwoman Anna G. Eshoo
Subcommittee on Health
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Hearing on “Improving Access to Care: Legislation to Reauthorize Key Public Health Programs”
July 29, 2020

Today our Subcommittee will consider five bills to reauthorize important public health programs that support and improve the health and wellbeing of children and adults.

While so much of our Subcommittee’s focus and work is on the COVID-19 pandemic which has killed 150,000 Americans, we also have to continue our essential work during the crisis, which means making sure that health programs nearing their expiration are continued, improved, and in some cases expanded.

Today we will hear testimony on five bipartisan reauthorization bills.

Several of these bills support individuals in the fight against cancer.

The *Creating Hope Reauthorization Act* sponsored by Representatives Butterfield and McCaul helps children access pediatric cancer drugs.

Pediatric cancer is the number one disease killer of American children, but pharmaceutical companies often avoid developing pediatric cancer drugs because of the small market and the high risks associated with studying and testing drugs for children.

The *Creating Hope Act* provides incentives for the research and development of pediatric cancer drugs by providing the developers with the valuable Priority Review Vouchers which allow the recipient to speed up the FDA review of any one of its new drug products.

The *TRANSPLANT Act* sponsored by Representatives Matsui and Bilirakis helps those with blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma to be matched with a potential bone marrow and cord blood donor. Through this matching program, over 100,000 lives have been saved.

The *EARLY Act* sponsored by Representatives Wasserman-Schultz and Brooks increases funding for the successful CDC outreach and education campaign that informs young people about breast cancer risks. Each year, over 300,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer.

I’ve spent my entire service in Congress to make sure women have access to breast cancer treatment, including reconstructive surgery after mastectomies, and I’m pleased to consider this important program today.

Outside of public health programs that help the fight against cancer, we’re also considering a bill to reauthorize the School-Based Health Center program sponsored by Representatives Sarbanes and Stefanik. About 2,500 school-based health centers serve 3.6 million children. These health

centers provide children with immunizations, mental health support, asthma and allergy screenings, and many other vital services.

Finally, we're considering a bill to make sure that the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency is prepared for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. The sponsors of this bill are Representatives Thompson, DeGette, and Johnson. The Agency is an independent body that manages the anti-doping program for America's athletes to ensure they're playing "clean."

As we struggle with the COVID-19 crisis, we have to keep up our work for Americans with cancer, our nation's children, and athletes training for future events.

I stand ready to work with my colleagues to make sure these programs are reauthorized.