

TROY BALDERSON  
12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, OHIO  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**  
2429 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3515  
PHONE: (202) 225-5355

**WORTHINGTON OFFICE:**  
250 EAST WILSON BRIDGE ROAD  
SUITE 100  
WORTHINGTON, OH 43085  
PHONE: (614) 523-2555

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my priorities and the major issues facing my constituents that fall under the Committee on Energy and Commerce's jurisdiction.

I've spent years working with and listening to the people and businesses of Ohio's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District regarding their concerns with healthcare policy and energy issues. This is why I've worked to increase access to telehealth services, promote the use of health IT in healthcare such as remote patient monitoring, lower the costs of prescription drugs, and curb the maternal health crisis.

Earlier this Congress, I reintroduced my bipartisan legislation, the KEEP Telehealth Options Act (H.R. 1677). This legislation would require a study and report to Congress on the expansion of telehealth services during the COVID-19 outbreak, the uptake of those services by patients across the country, and recommendations for enhancing the quality of and access to these services. For many rural and low-income Ohioans, this shift to telehealth has been beneficial in breaking down previous barriers for them to access quality care and has provided more healthcare options for my constituents. I'm proud this legislation was endorsed by a wide variety of healthcare groups in Ohio, including the Ohio Hospital Association, OhioHealth, Ohio State Medical Association, Ohio Association of Community Health Centers, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Mount Carmel Health System, Ohio Children's Hospital Association, Ohio Physical Therapy Association, and University Hospitals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated interest and investment into health information technology (IT). Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, remote patient monitoring (RPM) has shown to be an effective alternative to in-person clinical observation for acute and chronic medical conditions. These services provide a beneficial method for observing and treating patients from the comforts of their own homes. I recently introduced the bipartisan Analyzing the Duration of Remote Monitoring Services Act (H.R. 4347), which allows patients and health care providers to continue the use of these eased restrictions for RPM services, following the COVID-19 pandemic. RPM services are proven to be effective with helping individuals manage their health, such as COPD patients using a real-time, at-home pulse oximeter. Extension of the RPM program has the potential to reduce long-term health care costs, improve health outcomes, and increase options for patients. Additionally, I'm proud my bipartisan legislation has been endorsed by the American Telemedicine Association, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, Mount Carmel Health System, University Hospitals, Teladoc Health, Health Innovation Alliance, American Heart Association, and Medical Device Manufacturers Association.

Another healthcare issue I hear frequently about from my constituents is the cost of prescription drugs. I am happy to be a cosponsor of H.R. 19, the Lower Costs, More Cures Act which is led by Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers. This bill will lead to increased transparency, encourage innovation, and provide lower cost options for patients. I am honored to have companies and hospitals that are doing incredible research and development into pharmaceuticals in my district. Allowing them to continue this amazing work while also lowering the price of prescription drugs and not harming the pharmaceutical ecosystem is a priority of mine that I will continue to work on. I strongly urge the Committee to consider the Lower Costs, More Cures Act.

Additionally, I want to stress my support for increasing our domestic energy production and the expanding internet services to rural Americans.

H.R. 684, the Keystone XL Pipeline Construction and Jobs Preservation Act would authorize the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline to construct, connect, operate, and maintain the pipeline facilities in Phillips County, Montana, for the import of oil from Canada to the United States. Congress should be working to protecting good, well-paying blue-collar jobs rather than undermining the welfare of its citizens and jeopardizing our baseline energy security. HR 684 would reverse course from the dangerous Executive Order from President Biden.

HR 751, the Protecting American Energy Production Act would prohibit the President from declaring a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing unless Congress authorizes the moratorium. It is a fact that the advancements made in the energy industry have led to both an increase in production while also a decrease in overall emissions. These innovations have taken American energy to heights never thought possible, while simultaneously pushing back against the efforts of Russia and OPEC+ to undermine our nation, our economy, and those of our allies around the world.

While we should be giving Americans and the economy every opportunity to succeed, so too should we be working to provide Americans at home with the service and connectivity they need. To this end, I strongly support HR 3369, the Broadband for Rural America Act. This legislation, introduced by Ranking Member Glenn 'GT' Thompson, codifies USDA's ReConnect program, moving a substantial amount of funding and leverage away from the appropriation process and placing USDA rural broadband efforts underneath the Farm Bill. This legislation would maximize USDA's efforts to ensure Americans – regardless of their home address – have reliable access to broadband.

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my priorities and the concerns of Ohio's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Sincerely,



Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress