

Opening Statement
Health Subcommittee Markup: Public Health Legislation
Rep. Gene Green
February 4, 2015

Thank you and I appreciate the Committee leadership for having this markup today.

All four bills being considered address public health needs and remind us of what we can accomplish when we work together to improve the health and safety of the American people.

H.R. 639, the “Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act” provides a solution to current delays experienced by patients in need.

The amount of time the DEA has taken before acting on FDA recommendations has lengthened in recent years, which delays the availability of new therapies.

This legislation will improve patient access by bringing clarity and transparency to the process of scheduling a new FDA-approved therapy.

I was pleased to join Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member of the full Committee Frank Pallone in supporting this legislation so we can continue the great work they started last Congress.

Representatives Marino, Welch, Blackburn and Chu introduced H.R. 471, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act.

This legislation will promote patient access to medically-necessary controlled substances, and protect DEA's authority to protect public safety and health.

The final two bills being marked up today are the H.R. 648, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 647, the Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care Act.

My good friend and fellow Texan, Dr. Mike Burgess and I are the sponsors of these bills.

I thank him and his staff for their dedication and hard work on these legislative efforts.

H.R. 647 and H.R. 648 will reauthorize important grant programs that are designed to ensure the availability and effective use of trauma care.

Investing in trauma centers and trauma systems will save lives, improve patient outcomes, and lead to downstream cost savings within the health care system.

Thank you again to Dr. Burgess for your partnership on this issue, and to Mr. Chairman for bringing these bills before the subcommittee today.

I thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for putting forward these thoughtful proposals, and for your commitment to improving access and delivery of health care.

I look forward to seeing these important pieces of legislation move forward, and I hope we continue to work in a bipartisan manner.