

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Pitts
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “Securing Our Nation's Prescription Drug Supply Chain”
April 25, 2013

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Members of this subcommittee have been interested in securing our nation’s pharmaceutical supply chain for many years.

While some supply chain provisions were included in Title VII of last year’s FDA user fee bill, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA), a comprehensive “track and trace” package has yet to be finished.

Today’s hearing will focus on the importance of securing the downstream pharmaceutical supply chain, which includes manufacturers, wholesale distributors, pharmacies, repackagers and third-party logistics providers.

In order to ensure that counterfeit or stolen drugs do not enter the supply chain and harm patients, states have passed laws that require, or will require, those involved in the downstream supply chain to keep pedigrees or transaction histories of drugs.

Some believe that these differing state requirements should be replaced with a reasonable, practical and feasible federal policy.

On Monday, Rep. Latta and Rep. Matheson released a discussion draft to enhance the security of the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain and prevent duplicative or conflicting federal and state requirements.

I would like to thank our witnesses for being here today. I look forward to hearing their thoughts on the draft.

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