

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Health**  
**Hearing on “Obamacare Implementation Problems: More than Just a Broken Website”**  
**November 14, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Since 2009, this committee and the Congress has vigorously debated the consequences of the president’s health care law and what it would mean for patients and families across the country. These past 45 days have provided a disturbing glimpse of what reality looks like under the Affordable Care Act – millions of Americans are losing their private, affordable coverage, premiums are skyrocketing, Medicaid is enduring an untenable expansion diverting it from its core mission, and a website continues to frustrate Americans online, and will continue to do so long after November 30. The results, correctly described in recent news reports, have been “nothing short of disastrous.”

Enrollment figures finally released just yesterday underscore some of the law’s most significant issues as well as a fundamental broken promise. Fifty times as many folks are receiving cancellation notices than are even selecting a plan on HealthCare.gov. And nearly 80 percent of these first figures are Medicaid-dependents, an ominous forecast of what’s in store for the program originally designed to assist those Americans most in need of a helping hand.

And for those with health plans, premiums are skyrocketing across the country. In my home state of Michigan, residents face an estimated 69% average increase in the individual market under the Affordable Care Act.

This is not health care reform. This is not what the American people were promised. While the broken website continues to define the first weeks and months of open enrollment, the law itself has been constructed on a series of broken promises.

Regardless of whether or when the computer glitches are fixed, the law’s problems run much deeper. The broken promises of “if you like your plan, you can keep it, period,” and that premiums would go down an average of \$2,500 are causing unneeded worry, anxiety, and hardship for households across the country. Cancellations today, sticker shock tomorrow.

Sadly, the news is only going to get worse. Cancellations stem far beyond the 5 percent of Americans that the president claims are affected by his broken promise. Many workers with employer-sponsored insurance have learned or will soon learn the ACA is going to take away their coverage as well.

Beyond these broken promises, the law’s Medicaid expansion threatens our commitment to the nation’s most vulnerable, potentially adding 26 million Americans to its rosters, further straining the important safety net program

The first days of the health law have caused many Americans to lose faith in their government, revealing the ugly truth of what Washington-driven, big government health care can look like.

###