

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology and Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “21st Century Technology for 21st Century Cures”
July 17, 2014

(As Prepared for Delivery)

As part of our Committee’s 21st Century Cures Initiative, we are examining the discovery, development, and delivery process to speed new treatments and cures to patients.

One of the most promising avenues to facilitate this goal is new technology. We are witnessing the impact that technological innovation has played in every aspect of our economy.

Technology has the potential to transform health care as well, and in doing so address many of the challenges that we currently face.

The question before us: how do we ensure that our health care system can take advantage of the innovation going on in the tech world?

We now have mobile medical apps that can make health care more personalized if we don’t overregulate them.

We have electronic health records that can be shared among various providers to help better coordinate the care we receive, if we can ensure they are interoperable.

These and other technologies hold great potential for the future of health care and personalized medicine. In order to realize this potential, however, we are going to have to address barriers that currently make full integration difficult.

Our witnesses are here today to help us think through these technologies and the role they can play in a 21st Century health care system.

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