

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 4067 and H.R. _____
July 28, 2014

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today we will consider two pieces of legislation important to millions of patients across this country.

H.R. 4067, a bill introduced by Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, would provide more certainty to patients and providers in rural communities. This bill would continue to delay for the remainder of 2014 the enforcement instruction regarding supervision requirements for outpatient therapy services offered in critical access and small rural hospitals. As we all know, the administration has delayed this provision for a few years and right now providers are unsure about where they stand on this policy going forward. This bill would help ensure that patients across the country, particularly in rural communities, have access to the health care they need. H.R. 4067 would remove the uncertainty and ensure that everyone knows the rules of the road going forward with an eye on supporting Medicare patients in need of care.

The second piece of legislation is one championed by Congressman Pete Olson and Congressman Pete Sessions. This bill would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish specific recommendations for the development of clinical data registries. As we have seen with the committee's efforts to replace the broken SGR formula, data registries hold great promise for the future of health care in this country. However, expertise in their construction and operation varies significantly. This legislation would encourage the development and dissemination of best practices designed to support registry development that works for patients, provider groups and other stakeholders.

The Health Subcommittee has been one of the most productive in Congress, and today we will build upon our record of success.

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