

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 639, H.R. 471, H.R. _____, and H.R. _____
February 4, 2015

(As Prepared for Delivery)

In the 113th Congress, the Health Subcommittee established an impressive record of success with over two-dozen bipartisan bills signed into law. These new laws will help local communities by improving the public health across this nation. Today we will build upon the success of what I like to call the Public Health Congress by considering four bills to expand access to trauma systems and improve the Controlled Substances Act.

The Subcommittee will consider two trauma bills led by Dr. Burgess and Ranking Member Green. The Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act was passed through the full House in June 2014 and would help support state and rural development of trauma systems. The second bill, the Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act, will reauthorize language from the Public Health Service Act to aid hospitals in handling their uncompensated care costs from traumatic injuries.

We will also consider two bills related to the Controlled Substances Act. The Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act, led by Chairman Pitts, full committee Ranking Member Pallone and subcommittee Ranking Member Green, would amend the CSA to improve and streamline the Drug Enforcement Agency's process for scheduling new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Lastly, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, led by Vice Chairman Blackburn and Reps. Marino, Welch, and Chu would help prevent prescription drug abuse, establish clear and consistent enforcement standards, and ensure patients have access to medications by promoting collaboration among government agencies, patients, and industry stakeholders.

These are four important bills and I urge their swift approval. We've established a great foundation of bipartisan success, and I look forward to building up that record this Congress.

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