

McAdams Ways and Means Committee Member Day Testimony

- Thank you, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady, for your leadership on the Ways and Means Committee.
- I appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts – and to share the views of many of my constituents – on the important issues before this Committee.
- No matter where I am in Utah’s Fourth District – from Millcreek to Nephi – one of the top issues I hear about from my constituents is their health care.
- Utahns raise a number of concerns – their ability to purchase insurance that covers treatment for their child’s preexisting condition, the security of their Medicare, and the rising cost of care and prescription drugs.

Prescription drugs

- I am pleased to see bipartisan concern and action on the cost of prescription drugs in the House.
- I have heard heartbreaking stories from my constituents about the lengths to which their families have gone to afford their insulin, their cancer drugs, or other medicines they need to live.
- America’s medical and life sciences industries are true global leaders, but we cannot allow everyday Americans to be shut out from necessary medicine that treats an illness, helps them live a healthy life, or stay well enough to work and provide for their family.
- As a believer in capitalism and our free market society, I believe we can use the power of markets to deliver lower prices to consumers – but bad actors are killing competition and government has a role to play to ensure market fairness.

- Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady, I am proud to support your legislation, the bipartisan Prescription Drug STAR Act to introduce needed transparency into the prescription drug market and empower patients and payers to look at the practices of drug companies and pharmaceutical benefit managers.
- I was also proud to cosponsor and vote for other bipartisan drug pricing legislation that will introduce more competition into the generic drugs markets – the CREATES and BLOCKING Acts.

Surprise Billing

- I also believe this Congress must take steps to help Utah families avoid the shock of unexpected medical bills.
- This issue is affecting Utah families, and our legislature recently heard testimony from patients, including one of my constituents shared her story with state lawmakers about an unexpected \$15,000 bill from an emergency skiing accident.
- It's unacceptable that Americans who visit an emergency room or have a surgery at an in-network hospital are receiving tremendously expensive and unexpected bills for the care they need, and for which they had no opportunity to research the cost-effective option.
- I look forward to working with you and your colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee to find a solution that holds patients harmless, ensures robust networks of hospitals and physicians for people buying insurance, and expands access to affordable care.

Affordability

- In addition to these specific costs families are facing, I think we can agree that we must take actions to bring down the cost of coverage and care across the board.

- The individual marketplaces created by the ACA have extended comprehensive coverage options to millions of Americans and helped low income families afford coverage.
- But for the folks just outside the range of federal premium support – skyrocketing premiums have put coverage and care out of reach.
- That’s why I joined Congresswoman Craig’s State Health Care Premium Reduction Act, H.R. 1425, to establish a federal reinsurance program.
- By reducing risk in the market, we can provide certainty to insurers and bring down premiums – according to the CBO, by 10% on average.
- Many states, led by Republican and Democratic governors alike, have already successfully launched such programs, and I believe this Congress can follow their leadership in making coverage more affordable for American families.

Social Security and Medicare

- Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Brady, given this committee’s jurisdiction over Social Security and Medicare issues, I would be remiss if I did not emphasize to you all how vital these programs are to my constituents. We must protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare for today’s beneficiaries as well as for future generations.
- I would also like to thank you Chairman and Ranking Member, for your leadership in drafting legislation to strengthen Medicare Part D program for seniors by limiting their out of pocket costs.
- Soaring prescription drug prices have put tremendous strain on many seniors, particularly those living with chronic conditions, as well as their caregivers in Utah.
- I support your goal of providing certainty and financial security to some of the most ill and vulnerable people in our country, and I

look forward to working with you and members of the Way and Means Committee as this legislation develops.

Tax

- Another matter I wish to address before this committee is an unfortunate effect on tax-exempt organizations such as churches and charities stemming from the 2017 tax reform legislation. As this committee knows, the legislation imposes a tax on these entities related to certain transportation or parking benefits they provide to their employees.
- I have heard from a number of non-profits and religious organizations in Utah who have been affected by this new tax, and they tell me they are diverting resources away from their main missions to account for the new tax. I'm a cosponsor of H.R. 1545, legislation which would repeal this tax, and I would urge the committee to take up this issue this year.

Conclusion

- Thank you again for your work to improve the state of health care in America, and I look forward to continuing our conversation about how to deliver results for our constituents.