

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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Opening Statement Ranking Member Raja Krishnamoorthi

Hearing on “Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-In”

October 24, 2017

Thank you Chairman Jordan and Chairman Meadows for convening this hearing. I'd also like to thank Ranking Member Connolly for his friendship and leadership, and all our witnesses for participating today.

There's an old saying that there's no Republican or Democratic way to pick up the trash or fill a pothole. The only thing that matters is that you deliver for your constituents. I think that's a good mindset to have as we look to improve efficiencies and cut unnecessary regulations: this shouldn't be done with any partisan preconceptions, but with a dispassionate and rational mindset.

In my career as a small businessman, we made our business decisions based on facts and numbers. If a product wasn't selling, we would investigate why. If we had to change our products, we'd do so because our research told us that what we had been doing wasn't working. We did this because we had a clear goal in mind: we wanted to sell the best products, and keep making money. No matter how brilliant I thought my ideas were, I would be letting down my partners and our customers if I insisted on selling a product that our customers didn't want to buy.

I strive to bring this mindset to Congress as well. If a policy moves us toward what my constituents sent me here to do, I'll be happy to support it. I don't think many people in Schaumburg expected my first major legislation to be co-led by a Republican in rural Pennsylvania, but Representative Thompson and I found that we share the goal of improving career and technical education.

This is why I'm particularly troubled by recent administrative actions to undermine the health protections and coverage that millions of Americans have come to depend on. The Department of Health and Human Services has already halved the open enrollment period for plans to be purchased on the health exchange, and they have announced plans to shut down the website on the first day of the enrollment period.

These actions call into question whether the administration is making decisions based on fact or on ideology. What is accomplished by making it harder for Americans to get health

coverage? What is the goal that they are working towards if not purely ideological, no matter the human cost?

I hope the testimony that we hear today shows that agencies are making decisions based on facts, not ideology. I hope we hear testimony that shows agencies are devising effective regulation, not just deregulation.

I'm very grateful to the Chairmen for calling this hearing so we can further investigate the reasons behind administrative actions and the policy goals they serve, and provide comment and insight on how agencies can more effectively serve the American people.

I look forward to discussing this more with the witnesses, and I yield back my time.

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