

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN
PAUL A. GOSAR, ARIZONA
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, TENNESSEE
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
DOC HASTINGS, WASHINGTON
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, WYOMING
ROB WOODALL, GEORGIA
THOMAS MASSIE, KENTUCKY
DOUG COLLINS, GEORGIA
MARK MEADOWS, NORTH CAROLINA
KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO, MICHIGAN
RON DESANTIS, FLORIDA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA
MATTHEW A. CARTWRIGHT, PENNSYLVANIA
MARK POCAN, WISCONSIN
L. TAMMY DUCKWORTH, ILLINOIS
ROBIN L. KELLY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
TONY CARDENAS, CALIFORNIA
STEVEN A. HORSFORD, NEVADA
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, NEW MEXICO

Opening Statement Rep. Jackie Speier, Subcommittee Ranking Member

Subcommittees on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements and on Economic Growth, Job Creation, and Regulatory Affairs

Joint Hearing on "Health Insurance Co-ops: Examining ObamaCare's \$2 Billion Loan Gamble"

February 5, 2014

Let me begin by stating that I have enjoyed a cordial and constructive working relationship with the Chairman. I believe he is an honorable man. I choose to believe that this hearing has been orchestrated by a polarizing destructive Majority staff that is more interested in scoring political points than conducting meaningful oversight.

The American people are sick of it. I am sick of it.

The majority dropped a biased, incomplete, and un-vetted document on my desk 45 minutes ago purporting to be a staff report of the committee. No one watching this hearing right now should in any way believe that this is a bipartisan product.

I have had no time to fully review or study it. But what I have read is full of conjecture, ad homonym attacks, and conspiracy theories.

My cursory reading shows that the report exaggerates routine meetings, misrepresenting them as improper relationships, and accuses the co-ops of improper political activity when they only exercised their Constitutional right to petition their government and comment lawfully on proposed regulations. Just like the dairy farmers and sugarbeet growers did during the Farm Bill.

I fear that this document will not stand up to scrutiny, otherwise I would have received it weeks ago, and the full committee would have participated in its drafting.

Instead, the majority chose to spend precious taxpayer dollars and staff time focusing on 1 of 24 CO-OPs that failed to receive licensure and whose outstanding loan represents less than a quarter of one percent of the total allocation of the entire program. Their analysis of this single CO-OP is also transparently biased and I believe politically motivated.

As much as the majority would like to manufacture a scandal, there simply isn't one. There is no smoking gun. This is no Solyndra.

The majority is trying to use this single, unrepresentative example to sabotage the entire program.

I stand ready and willing to conduct oversight with the Majority in a manner that allows for constructive and thoughtful study and debate. This hearing will do neither and therefore I will not participate.

Contact: Jennifer Hoffman, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181