



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Chairman Fred Upton
113th Congress

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Health Subcommittee Convenes Hearing on 21st Century Cures: Examining the Role of Incentives in Advancing Treatments and Cures for Patients

Live Webcast

Click [here](#) to watch the hearing beginning at 10:00 a.m. ET

Opening Statement of Health Subcommittee Chairman Joseph R. Pitts

Today's hearing provides us with an opportunity to examine an important aspect of the 21st Century Cures Initiative: whether current economic and regulatory incentives are sufficient to encourage robust investment in the research and development of innovative new drugs and medical technologies.

I am particularly interested in better understanding what we can do to make it more attractive for companies and venture capitalists to invest in the development of therapies that would provide hope to patients without adequate treatment options. After all, as we have learned, there are only effective treatments for 500 of the 7,000 known diseases impacting patients today.

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Opening Statement of Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton

We launched the 21st Century Cures initiative with the goal of accelerating the discovery, development, and delivery of innovative new treatments and cures to patients, ensuring that the United States remains the biomedical innovation capital of the world. 21st Century Cures aims to close any gaps between the science of cures and how we regulate those therapies. This must be an ongoing conversation.

Today we will hear testimony about whether our current legislative and regulatory framework encourages innovators to pursue the development of drugs and devices that are crucial to helping our nation's patients. I am proud of the fact that this committee recently came together on a bipartisan basis to address this innovation gap in the context of antibiotics. But, it is clear that our work is far from over.

Read [more...](#)

Witness Testimony and Additional Background

Click [here](#) to view the hearing background memo and witness testimony on the Energy and Commerce Committee website.

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