

Chairman Brett Guthrie Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Health
Legislative Proposals to Maintain and Improve the Public
Health Workforce, Rural Health, and Over-the-Counter
Medicines
Wednesday, July 16, 2025 – 10:00AM

Thank you, Chairman Griffith. I congratulate you on your new role and am excited as you lead your first hearing as Health Subcommittee Chairman today. And thank you to all of the witnesses for being here today.

Before we begin, I just wanted to say thank you to my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia, Congressman Carter for his exceptional work leading our health subcommittee this year. He has continuously fought for Americans to have access to quality and affordable health care, and I am sure that he will continue to make improving the lives of Georgians and all Americans a priority.

We are here to discuss the reauthorizations of the FDA's Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Program, known as "OMUFA," as well as several health workforce and rural health care programs administered by HRSA, which are all set to expire on September 30th of this year.

This is the first reauthorization of OMUFA, and I look forward to hearing from the FDA's Dr. Jacqueline Corrigan-Curay, on implementation of the program and outcomes of the first five years of the program.

The original bill reformed the regulation of over-the-counter drugs – products that so many of us and our constituents use every day – to reduce bureaucracy, increase transparency, and allow innovation to flourish.

The safety and efficacy of these products is critical, which is why reauthorizing this program in a timely manner is so important.

I am also looking forward to hearing from our witnesses about ways we can improve participation in the health care workforce and increase access to care in rural areas.

Rural areas – like my home state of Kentucky – face a unique set of health challenges ranging from limited access to emergency services and specialized medical care to higher rates of chronic conditions like high blood pressure and obesity.

It's imperative for lawmakers to understand these nuances and ensure federal support is targeted to the areas that need it most.

I'm hopeful that this hearing will provide us with an update on how these various programs are operating and any gaps that may need to be addressed to streamline and improve health outcomes.

I thank the witnesses for their participation and look forward to today's discussion. I yield back.