

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Roundtable on 21st Century Cures
September 10, 2014

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today we continue our tremendous bipartisan efforts on the 21st Century Cures initiative with this roundtable to discuss ideas the committee has received over the past several months and look to more specifics about what steps we can take to accelerate the cycle of cures, embrace technology advances and the rise of personalized medicine, and keep America the innovation capital of the world.

Over August and early September, our committee members, including Congresswoman DeGette, Chairman Pitts, Dr. Burgess, Mr. Lance, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Shimkus, Mr. Latta and Mr. Johnson, held roundtables across the country to hear about how American innovation is providing hope, saving lives, and creating jobs.

The 21st Century Cures initiative affects all Americans as they, their families, or their friends have been affected by disease. As our committee members heard during August, hard work remains to find and deliver cures and treatments for the approximately 95% of diseases without them. We've seen an outpouring of support, both outside and inside Washington, to work together and achieve this common goal.

Today, to continue that work toward more cures and treatments, we have brought together another all-star roundtable. Joining us today we have:

- Secretary Sylvia Burwell of the Department of Health and Human Services
- Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the NIH
- Dr. Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner of FDA
- Michael Milken, Chairman of the Milken Institute
- Mr. Dean Kamen, Founder of DEKA Research and Development
- Mr. Bill Parfet, Chairman and CEO of MPI Research from Mattawan, Michigan
- Dr. Dan Theodorescu, Director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center

We need to hear from our participants as much as possible. I know my congressional colleagues agree with me that the participants are the experts and this roundtable is an opportunity to listen and learn. To that end, while we may want to ask the experts some questions to guide the conversation, let's keep our talking to a minimum. I'd also ask the participants to keep their answers brief, to about a minute if possible so we can keep the conversation moving.

In closing, I want to thank those folks who have offered their input on this 21st Century Cures initiative. I can't tell you how much we appreciate the thoughtful contributions, especially those of everyday Americans. We intend to release a Cures legislative discussion draft in early January 2015 and will look to swiftly move the legislation early in the next Congress. If you want your idea considered, please send it to cures@mail.house.gov as soon as possible. The more specific the idea, the better.

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