

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Statement by Kenny Marchant (TX-24)
Member of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Health
Member's Day Hearing: Legislation to improve and sustain the Medicare Program
June 8, 2016

Statement on H.R. 3288

Chairman Tiberi, Ranking Member McDermott, Thank you for holding this hearing today. I am pleased to provide the following statement on my bill to improve and sustain the Medicare Program.

I introduced H.R. 3288 with my friend and colleague Dr. Boustany last year. This legislation amends title XVIII (18) of the Social Security Act to change the method of determining disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments under the Medicare program. As the members of this committee are aware, "DSH" payments compensate hospitals for the above average operating costs they incur in treating a large share of low-income patients.

Mr. Chairman- 19 states are not adopting Medicaid expansion. "DSH" Hospitals in these states, such as Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Kansas and Georgia, are financially disadvantaged. Though it is not our job to make state-level decisions, it is our job to ensure our hospitals have the resources necessary to care for our constituents.

My bill would help ease the burden these hospitals are facing. Patient care is not a partisan issue and I urge all of my colleagues on this committee to cosponsor this non-partisan, no-cost policy.

Mr. Chairman, once again I appreciate the effort being made here today and for the forum to speak on ideas to sustain Medicare, and look forward to continue working with you and the committee staff to advance this policy and strengthen the "DSH" program. Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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