



OPENING STATEMENT

House Committee on Education and Labor

Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Opening Statement of Chairman Scott (VA-03)

House Committee on Education and Labor Full Committee Hearing

Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.

Today, we are meeting to discuss the Department of Health and Human Services' budget request for Fiscal Year 2023.

Secretary Becerra, I am pleased to welcome you back to the Committee, which we once both served on together, and hear your vision to ensure the well-being of our country is taken care of.

We know the Biden-Harris Administration needs a robust COVID package to address both the immediate and long-term consequences of the pandemic. It is my hope we can send the President that legislation in just a few days.

We must also address our nation's mental health crisis. I was encouraged to see that the recent budget proposal strengthens coverage and expands access to behavioral health care.

Finally, I look forward to working with you and the Department to ensure we address systemic inequities in health care. The pandemic laid bare the long-standing bias and barriers to health care. To recite Dr. Martin Luther King's observation about inequities, he once said, that of all forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most "shocking and inhumane." This is a reminder that health care is also a civil rights issue.

So, thank you for your time. I now recognize the distinguished Ranking Member, the gentlelady from North Carolina, Dr. Foxx for her opening statement.