

# Working Toward One Goal: Helping Patients



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**Two Congressional leaders explain how the 21st Century Cures Act is the beginning of Washington looking at healthcare in a new way.**

The 21st Century Cures Act is the product of innovative and collaborative idea sharing from experts around the country. We recognized that we did not have all the answers in Congress, so we came to folks like you. We engaged in a dialogue that had been happening in silos, and worked to break those down and bring everyone to the table. The end result was a bill that was approved overwhelmingly through the House of Representatives this summer.

H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act, is not only an important bill for patients and health innovators; it is an important example of how to accomplish big things in Washington. What makes 21st Century Cures different? It's

nonpartisan, it makes vital and fully paid for investments, and it reflects hours of hard work from folks inside and outside of government together at one table working toward one goal: helping patients.

**“The 21st Century Cures initiative affects all Americans as they, their families, or their friends have been affected by disease. Hard work remains to find and deliver cures and treatments for the approximately 95 percent of diseases without them.”**

- Chairman Upton at roundtable, Sept. 2014

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## 1

The 21st Century Cures Act is a nonpartisan bill that seeks to achieve the priorities of the American people. The bill helps patients. It provides hope to those suffering from diseases that the brightest minds in science and research will have the tools they need to unleash a new generation of cures and treatments.

## 2

The 21st Century Cures Act includes fully paid for investments in the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.

## 3

The 21st Century Cures Act achieves the careful balance of modernizing and streamlining government while maintaining the highest standards of safety. We did this by bringing the leaders of the FDA to the table, working closely with outside experts, and combing through pages of legislative text for months. Our goal throughout the process was helping patients, and



this was the driving force behind every decision we made.

The 21st Century Cures Act still has a ways to go before becoming law, but our success so far keeps us optimistic. And your continued efforts are critical. One of the greatest gifts of the 21st Century Cures process has been meeting inspiring patients and thought leaders. Their strength and

commitment were driving forces behind the 21st Century Cures Act and will remain so as we move a bill to the president’s desk.

The 21st Century Cures Act is an important accomplishment, but it is just the beginning of Washington looking at healthcare in a new way. We are glad to be joining you in this. We have much work left to do. But together, we can and will make a difference.