

**Committee on Science, Space, & Technology**  
*“Healthcare.gov: Consequences of Stolen Identity.”*

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)  
Statement

Thursday, January 16, 2014, 9:00 a.m., Rayburn 2318

Since we held our November 19<sup>th</sup> hearing highlighting security issues at healthcare.gov, up to 110 million people have had their debit card or credit card information compromised by a hack of Target store records. But Target was not alone in being successfully hacked: *The Washington Post*, Facebook, Gmail, LinkedIn, Twitter, Youtube, Yahoo, JP MorganChase, SnapChat, and my friends at the Dallas-based Neiman Marcus stores have all announced security breaches.

However, do you know one system that has not been successfully hacked since that last hearing? Healthcare.gov.

Also since the last hearing the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) staff and contractors have been working around the clock to improve the performance and security of healthcare.gov. There have been numerous fixes to the website that have improved the site’s responsiveness compared to its first 60 days. Millions of Americans have been able to access the site and obtain medical coverage.

During that entire time top security contractors, including Blue Canopy, Frontier Security and the Mitre Corporation, have been working to test the system and identify weaknesses that need to be addressed. The Chief Information Security officer has also been running weekly penetration tests to support security mitigation steps for CMS.

Furthermore, CMS says that none of the Majority’s witnesses concerns voiced in that November hearing have turned into any actual breach of security.

The last hearing did not feature a single witness who had any actual information about the security architecture of healthcare.gov, nor what is being done to maintain the integrity of the website. Today, we have the same kind of hearing. As smart and experienced as these witnesses are, not one of them has actual knowledge of the security structure at healthcare.gov. The best that they can do is speculate about vulnerabilities. I think it would be good for Members to remember that.

I am concerned that the intention of this hearing appears to be to scare Americans away from the healthcare.gov site. This represents a continuation of a cynical campaign to make the Affordable Care Act fail through lack of participation. While we are holding this hearing, both the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee are holding similar events. All with the apparent goal to create a sense of fear, thereby manufacturing an artificial security crisis.

It is my hope that all of our witnesses can agree that it is important to make healthcare.gov work for the American people to help give all our citizens access to affordable health care. I do not want to believe that any of the witnesses testifying today want the site to be hacked or shut down, or see the program fail, or see Americans go without medical insurance.

The country faces a lot of real issues and real policy challenges. If we are truly interested in hacking and identity theft, we should have representatives of the largest retail institutions in the country here to discuss the challenges they face in protecting people's information. Instead, it appears that the Majority has allowed the Committee to become a tool of political messaging to a degree I have never witnessed in my time in Congress.

Thank you, I hope that today's hearing will be the last on this topic, absent some actual allegations of wrongdoing, so that we can focus on all the legitimate oversight issues facing the country and this Committee.