Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)
The Role of the White House Chief Technology Officer in the HealthCare.gov Website Debacle

Chairman Smith: Americans have seen first-hand the misrepresentations that surround Obamacare. First, there was the President's broken promise that "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it." Then, in a video that surfaced last week, MIT professor Jonathan Gruber, a principal architect of Obamacare, admitted how the Administration sold this to the American people, saying:

> "Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. Basically, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical to getting the thing [Obamacare] to pass."

Finally, after a year of requests by this Committee, the Administration has agreed to have someone who worked in the White House testify about the lack of security of the HealthCare.gov website. Mr. Todd Park was the White House Chief Technology Officer for the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) from March 2012 to August 2014.

Joining the Obama Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services, Mr. Park was one of the principal architects for the HealthCare.gov website. Former Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius later called this website "a debacle" with a recent estimated cost of $2 billion.

Today we will review the White House's repeated misinformation about the HealthCare.gov website. Mr. Park's own emails show an in-depth, detailed knowledge about cybersecurity issues with the website. He was the primary spokesperson for the White House about the website and the website's security.

Mr. Park directed several contractors to review the security of the website. On October 10th—soon after the website went operational—Mr. Park read an online article by David Kennedy, a white hat hacker who has testified twice before this Committee.

Mr. Kennedy's article was entitled "Is the Affordable Care Website Secure? Probably Not."   Mr. Park commented in an email how he was advised that "these guys are on the level."

We're asking Mr. Park to explain his role in developing the $2 billion website and what the Administration knew about the security risks of the website.

As of today, the White House still has failed to provide this Committee with all the documents that are subject to the subpoena. The ones we do have paint a far different picture than that of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

As I mentioned, the Committee has not received all of the emails and other documents that were subject to the subpoena. So another hearing may well be necessary.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank the chairman of the Oversight Subcommittee, Dr. Paul Broun, for his tireless efforts on this subject and many others before the Oversight Subcommittee. We appreciate his public service and dedication over his many years on the Science Committee.

I look forward to today's hearing.

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