

**Statement of Aneesh Chopra  
President, NavHealth to the  
House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee  
on  
The State of Working America  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

Leader Pelosi, Co-Chairs DeLauro and Swalwell, and Members of the Committee, it is my distinct privilege to be here with you today to discuss the state of working America, with particular emphasis on policies that spur job creation, income mobility and new business formation.

During my tenure as U.S. Chief Technology Officer (2009-2012), I worked to advance President Obama's "Strategy for American Innovation," a set of policies designed to spur economic growth and shared prosperity – investing in 21<sup>st</sup> Century infrastructure – investing beyond roadways, railways and runways to universal broadband, R&D, and STEM education; setting rules of the road to promote competition, security and privacy in the digital age; and opening up our government's data to foster public, private, and non-profit solutions to tackle our most pressing challenges in health, energy, education and economic mobility.

Today, I hope to share several policy recommendations that build upon the Obama Administration's 2015 update to that strategy focused on "delivering innovative government with and for the people." As we learned in the years following the launch of "Startup America," a national campaign to inspire and accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship, efforts to tap into the expertise of the American people to solve the most pervasive, seemingly intractable problems are both pro-growth and pro-government.

As you consider a renewed vision for a more innovative, prosperous and inclusive America, I hope you emphasize improvements at the public/private interface, with emphasis on opening government data to the public, including through convening the private sector on open standards that allow greater competition; expanding government digital services to include a "wholesale" option enabling a marketplace of possible services; and advancing a productivity agenda that rewards public service delivery models that improve outcomes while sharing in aggregate cost reduction.

In an era of "always-on" digital services fueled by automation, we will soon expect that by pushing a button, we can summon a self-driving cab or a drone to deliver food within a few minutes. Imagine harnessing the power and potential of these very same technologies to summon recommendations on which job training program can best extend our skills to land a job in our community that can boost our lifetime earning potential. With your leadership, we can ensure every American has a fair shot at the American Dream. To start, I would encourage you to:

**Make Labor Market Data as Open as Weather Data**

Since President Obama's first full day in office, public officials at all levels of government have engaged in an unprecedented movement to publish data in machine-readable form, free of intellectual property constraint on portals like Data.gov. Take, for example, the availability of real-time weather data feeds that fuel a \$5 billion+ competitive marketplace of

applications. Weather.com’s developers harnessed that data, in combination with other technologies to design a predictive model that anticipates wind patterns with enough notice to allow wind farms to adjust blade angles and boost energy yields.

Our labor market, however, operates without a comparable, openly available real-time understanding of the jobs and skills in demand by employers large or small. Rather, the workforce system operates on a patchwork of public or private online job boards with varying levels of access to third party developers, limiting our capacity to offer job seekers a menu of applications and services competing to help them make better career choices.

Accomplishing this goal will require more public/private collaboration to encourage the development and use of open, internet-based standards to open up key labor market information but we have made such progress in other areas of Congressional priority – smart grid and health IT data standards, for example. Equipping the Labor Department with the necessary tools to process that information will result in openly available data feeds that entrepreneurs and innovators can put to work in unlocking the full value of human capital.

### **Add “Wholesale” Options to Government Digital Services**

In the aftermath of the challenges associated with the 2013 launch of healthcare.gov, the federal government has dramatically expanded its capacity to build digital services in a manner comparable to what we find in every other aspect of our lives. The U.S. Digital Service, and GSA’s 18F, among other agency-specific teams are now simplifying how veterans apply for benefits, the uninsured shop for health insurance, and many other services.

However, the American people still struggle with making decisions on how best to utilize these important services. When Uber surveyed its drivers in 2014, 60% noted that they could use better tools to help them choose the health plan that is right for them. Stride competes with other tools to help consumers anticipate their health needs and matches them with plans that are right for them.

As President Obama noted in the launch of his precision medicine initiative, the American people deserve access to their own health data and the right to connect it to the applications or services that can help them make more sense of it. Imagine a competitive marketplace of firms that compete on helping students manage their student loan repayment options, or deciding when to elect for Social Security benefits, or which school or training program reimbursable through the VA’s GI benefits can boost lifetime earnings.

### **Integrate Open Data in “Pay for Success” Service Delivery Models**

Over the past several years, the federal government has unleashed a wave of experiments testing whether new “pay for success” models might improve outcomes in any number of areas – Medicare accountable health organizations, veteran employment, and even within the broader workforce development system. While still early, I would encourage this Committee to examine how best to equip these models with the ability share real-time data. For too many current experiments, available administrative data is often out-of-date, limiting the ability for partners to intervene in a timely manner.

In closing, I applaud your focus on updating an innovation strategy that offers durable, sustainable expansion in both employment and economic growth. I'm hopeful that improvements on how our government serves the American people will create new jobs in markets all across the country while simultaneously making our democracy stronger.

I welcome any questions that the Committee may have.