

# DeGette Drops Whip Bid, Eyes Oversight Panel With Health Focus

By Shira Stein | November 19, 2018 6:11PM ET

A prominent health-care lawmaker dropped her bid for House leadership and said she'll instead seek to lead the House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

"Many of my supporters have expressed concern about pressure they are receiving to return the three senior leaders to their posts without opposition," Rep. [Diana DeGette](#) (D-Colo.) said in a [press release](#). "We have enough work to do without this internal pressure. Therefore, I am withdrawing my bid for Whip at this time."

DeGette, 61, was facing Rep. [James Clyburn](#) (S.C.) The congressman, 78, has been the Democrats' No. 3 leader since 2006. The ages of the top three House Democrats -- 235 years combined -- have fueled calls among some Democrats to pick new leaders.

## [Some Democrats Oppose Pelosi as House Speaker, Seek New Leader](#)

DeGette said she expects to remain as chief deputy whip and "expects to be selected chair" of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, where she's currently the ranking member. Her statement mentioned the panel's oversight of drug pricing, officials at the Environmental Protection Agency, and the separation of migrant children from their parents at the U.S. border.

The congresswoman doesn't plan to run for chairman of the Health Subcommittee, her aide Matt Inzeo said in an email to Bloomberg Government, because Rep. [Anna Eshoo](#) (D-Calif.) already announced that she intends to seek the position and is next in line based on seniority.

A prominent member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, DeGette has been the lead Democrat on several biomedical research measures, including the 21st Century Cures Act ([Public Law 114-255](#)) to spur new drugs and devices.

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