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MARKUP OF:

H.R. 297, CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013;

H.R. 235, VETERAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN SUPPORT ACT OF 2013;

H.R. 225, NATIONAL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH NETWORK ACT OF 2013;

H.R. 267, HYDROPOWER REGULATORY EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2013; AND

H.R. 316, COLLINSVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMOTION ACT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013

House of Representatives,

Committee on Energy and Commerce,

Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:42 a.m., in Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Fred Upton [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Upton, Hall, Barton, Whitfield, Shimkus, Pitts, Walden, Terry, Rogers, Murphy, Burgess, Blackburn,

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Gingrey, Scalise, Latta, Harper, Lance, Cassidy, Guthrie, Olson, McKinley, Gardner, Pompeo, Kinzinger, Griffith, Bilirakis, Johnson, Long, Ellmers, Waxman, Dingell, Pallone, Rush, Eshoo, Engel, Green, DeGette, Capps, Schakowsky, Butterfield, Barrow, Matsui, Castor, Sarbanes, McNerney, Braley, Welch, Lujan and Tonko.

Staff Present: Nick Abraham, Legislative Clerk; Clay Alspach, Counsel, Health; Charlotte Baker, Press Secretary; Ray Baum, Senior Policy Advisor/Director of Coalitions; Mike Bloomquist, General Counsel; Sean Bonyun, Communications Director; Matt Bravo, Professional Staff Member; Allison Busbee, Policy Coordinator, Energy & Power; Jerry Couri, Sr. Environmental Policy Advisor; Patrick Currier, Counsel, Energy & Power; Brenda Destro, Professional Staff Member, Health; Steve Ferrara, Health Fellow; Neil Fried, Chief Counsel, C&T; Julie Goon, Health Policy Advisor; Robert Horne, Professional Staff Member, Health; Kirby Howard, Legislative Clerk; Debbie Keller, Press Secretary; Nick Magallanes, Policy Coordinator, CMT; Gib Mullan, Chief Counsel, CMT; Katie Novaria, Legislative Clerk; John O'Shea, Professional Staff Member, Health; Monica Popp, Professional Staff Member, Health; Andrew Powaleny, Deputy Press Secretary; David Redl, Counsel, Telecom; Tina Richards, Counsel, Environment; Charlotte, Savercool, Executive Assistant; Alan Slobodin, Deputy Chief Counsel, Oversight; Sam Spector, Counsel, Oversight; Heidi Stirrup, Health Policy Coordinator; John Stone, Counsel, Oversight; Lyn Walker, Coordinator, Admin/Human Resources;

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Jean Woodrow, Director, Information Technology; Michelle Ash, Minority Chief Counsel, Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade; Jeff Baran, Minority Senior Counsel; Phil Barnett, Minority Staff Director; Jen Berenholz, Minority Chief Clerk; Stacia Cardille, Minority Deputy Chief Counsel; Brian Cohen, Minority Staff Director, Oversight & Investigations, Senior Policy Advisor; Alli Corr, Minority Policy Analyst; Greg Dotson, Minority Staff Director, Energy and Environment; Caitlin Haberman, Minority Policy Analyst; Ruth Katz, Minority Chief Public Health Counsel; Elizabeth Letter, Minority Assistant Press Secretary; Karen Lightfoot, Minority Communications Director and Senior Policy Advisor; Karen Nelson, Minority Deputy Committee Staff Director for Health; Roger Sherman, Minority Chief Counsel; Kara van Stralen, Minority Special Assistant; and Will Wallace, Minority Policy Analyst.

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The Chairman. And we will now move to the markup portion of the meeting, and we are going to adopt, hopefully, several bills that passed the last Congress but were not acted on by the Senate. And with agreement with Mr. Waxman, we are going to move these very quickly.

I recognize myself for a couple of minutes to provide an opening statement, though I will not use all of that time. As I mentioned previously, I have made it a policy in this committee to prioritize bipartisan bills and amendments. It is no mistake that we are here on the first day of the Energy and Commerce Committee's business in this Congress to move quickly on a series of bipartisan bills. We will undoubtedly continue to have our differences, and we will work hard to achieve the policies and principles in which we believe, but the first five bills before us today show that we can work together on a shared priority.

And I would thank my colleagues for the work in the last Congress, and I am pleased to move these bills this year.

And I would now yield to Mr. Waxman.

[The prepared statement of The Chairman follows:]

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Mr. Waxman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for scheduling today's markup of the three bipartisan public health bills and two bipartisan hydropower bills. Each of these bills passed in the 112th Congress but did not advance in the Senate. I am pleased that we are working once again to move them forward on a bipartisan basis.

The Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act is sponsored by Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone. H.R. 297 continues the successful National Physician Training Program that provides ongoing and consistent financial support to hospitals, such as Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, for the training of doctors who specialize in pediatrics.

Congresswomen Capps and McMorris Rodgers are the authors of the National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013, which would allow the National Institutes of Health to establish a National Pediatric Research Network dedicated to finding treatments and cures for pediatric diseases and conditions, especially those that are rare. H.R. 225 also places emphasis on professional training for future pediatric researchers, and I would encourage NIH to take full advantage of this opportunity to build on a strong body of its existing pediatric research.

The Veterans Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2013 is sponsored by Congressman Kinzinger and Congresswoman Capps. It authorizes a demonstration grant program to States so they in turn can streamline the certification and licensure requirements for returning

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veterans to become emergency medical technicians. This legislation seeks to respond to higher than average unemployment rates experienced by our veterans, advancing shared goals of getting our vets back to work and addressing areas of shortage and health professionals.

H.R. 267 is a bipartisan bill introduced by Congresswomen McMorris Rodgers and DeGette that will facilitate the development of new environmentally responsible hydropower projects. Their staffs worked closely with the committee staff to produce this legislation. After extensive discussions with interested stakeholders, the bill is now one that is a good cooperative one that produces a balanced bipartisan approach.

The last bill is the Collinsville hydropower legislation introduced by Congresswoman Esty of Connecticut, the bill would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reinstate licenses for two hydroelectric projects on the Farmington River and to transfer those licenses to the towns of Canton, Connecticut. This balanced bill allows FERC to get these projects licensed expeditiously, while ensuring that the appropriate environmental analysis is completed and considered.

Democrats and Republicans worked together to bring each of these bills before the full committee today. And when the chairman calls up the bills and we have a chance to vote on them, I would urge any colleagues to support all of them.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Waxman follows:]

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The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Waxman.

Let me just say I intend to call up each of these bills individually and have a quick voice vote on each of the five and will entertain requests now for opening statements on any of the bills if a member would like to -- let me recognize Mr. Pitts first, and then I will come to the other side.

Mr. Pitts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to enter the following letters of support into the record under unanimous consent. The letter from the Association of Medical Colleges in support of H.R. 297; a letter from National Children's Hospital in support of H.R. 297 and H.R. 225; a letter from the Association of United States Navy in support of H.R. 235; and one from the Collation for pediatric Medical Research in support of H.R. 225.

The Chairman. Without objection.

[The information follows:]

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The Chairman. The chair will recognize -- oh, I am sorry.

Mr. Pitts. Briefly, Mr. Chairman, let me make a few remarks on H.R. 297, the Jones Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act. Ranking Member Pallone and I reintroduced this bill to reauthorize the children's hospital GMA program for an initial 5 years. The program trains 40 percent of our Nation's pediatrics, 43 percent of pediatric subspecialties; more than 5,000 residents take part in this program every career; and 56 freestanding children's hospitals in the U.S. participate. Since the program was enacted in 1999, the number of pediatric residents has increased 35 percent.

This program has enjoyed bipartisan support since its creation. And in the 112th Congress, we reauthorized the program and actually passed it twice. I would like to thank my friend Mr. Pallone for helping lead on the bill again.

I urge all my colleagues to support the critical program and yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pitts follows:]

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The Chairman. The chair would recognize Mr. Pallone for an opening statement.

Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to comment on the health bills, but just very briefly, I just wanted to say, first, welcome to the new members. And I can't help but reminisce -- some of you have heard my say this before -- about when I was a freshman Member, and I was on the Transportation Committee at the time because my predecessor Jim Howard was the chairman of it, so I decided I had to go on it. And very quickly, I would sort of wander over to the entrance of the Rayburn building and come in here and listen to some of the hearings of the Energy and Commerce Committee. And I was just amazed at the debate over the great issues of the day. And I saw people -- I hope they don't take offense to what I say -- but I saw people John Dingell who was the chairman, and Henry Waxman, and Ed Markey, and Bill Richardson, sort of great leaders of the Congress. I mean, they still are, but some of them are not here anymore. And I said to myself, that is it; I am not staying on the Transportation Committee; I have got to get on this committee. And I certainly made the right decision, that is for sure, because we still deal with all the great issues in the Congress.

So congratulations to the new members for joining the committee.

Also I wanted to mention that when the President spoke yesterday, he talked about how every generation has its crises, but when we work together on a bipartisan basis, we can manage to get over those crises

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and address them. And I really think when Henry Waxman said that is what we really need to do here is true; we really need to work on a bipartisan basis, and we can get things done.

So let me talk about the bills briefly if I can. I know that we talk about how two of these bills already passed the House, but we ran out of the time in the Senate. I just wanted to comment on the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Reauthorization Act, which I sponsor with Chairman Pitts. Children in our committees are counting on this program to train a future generation of pediatricians. And it is a program with proven results, and it is past time we authorize CHGME and provide certainty to hospitals and doctors.

The bill had overwhelming support in the last Congress, and I hope this year the Senate will take it up and send it to the President. Nationwide, 56 hospitals in 30 States participate in the program, which funds medical school graduates, enhances hospital research capabilities and improves hospitals' ability to provide care to vulnerable and underserved children. In 2009, the program supported the training of 5,361 resident physicians.

The two other health bills, the Pediatric Research Consortium Act and the Veterans Emergency Medical Technician Support Act, were both sponsored by Congresswoman Capps. And we overwhelmingly passed these bills through both committees and the House last Congress, so I support their passage again.

I don't want to reiterate all the details of them. They are very

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important, and particularly, if I could mention to my colleague Ms. Capps, when we had the hearing on the EMT bill, it was really interesting to see how many veterans really were thwarted in their efforts to complete EMT training that they could use after they left the military, so I think that is a particularly important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support these, and hopefully we can get them on the floor and passed in the Senate in a timely fashion.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pallone follows:]

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The Chairman. Thank you.

Other members wishing to make an opening statement?

Mr. Latta.

Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I appreciate the time.

And just briefly, I also want to specifically mention my support for H.R. 297, the legislation to reauthorize Graduate Medical Education Programs for Children's Hospitals. There are six Ohio children's hospitals receiving CHGME, and this authorization is extremely important to train pediatric residents and specialists in pediatrics in Ohio and across the country. This is a vital reauthorization, and I am hopeful the bill moves quickly through the House and the Senate and is signed into law by President.

In addition, H.R. 267, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013, of which I am also an original cosponsor, is an important part of the House Republicans' energy policy. And hope to attain the energy independence for this country, and I strongly support this bill.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Latta follows:]

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The Chairman. The gentleman yields back.

Other members?

Gentlelady from Colorado.

Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just very briefly, I would like to express my thanks to everybody for the bipartisan support of these bills. The problem we have with these bills is not bipartisanship; it is bicameral support. And these bills are ones that passed the House pretty unanimously and then never got called up in the other body, so now we are giving them 2 years. I hope maybe they will take them up.

The first one I want to give support to is Representative Capps and Ms. McMorris Rodgers' bill that I have been working on also for many years, the National Pediatric Research Network Act. That is a really important bill that passed the House the last two Congresses, and I hope the other body takes it up because our Nation's children deserve it.

And then, of course, the second bill is the bill that I have been doing with Representative McMorris Rodgers the past couple of years, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013. What this bill does is it cuts red tape for hydropower producers. And I was just looking at an op-ed from the Telluride, Colorado, newspaper; there are so many small hydro projects around the country who would be producing energy if we would cut the regulations and red tape.

I want to thank you for bringing them up, Mr. Chairman, and I yield

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back.

[The prepared statement of Ms. DeGette follows:]

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The Chairman. Let me just say that I intend to try to get these bills up on the House floor as quick as we can.

I will be walking over to the Senate to see if we can't get them moving along to the President's desk.

Other members wishing to speak?

Mr. Hall.

Mr. Hall. Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief.

I am honored to be back here. Some 30, 32 years ago, I came to Congress, and a guy named Jim Wright was Majority Leader, I believe, then later the Speaker, asked me what committee I wanted. Sam Rayburn had been my Speaker -- Congressman. He told me this was the only committee up here to be on. I asked for this committee and NASA. I got both of them. I am honored to be here. Thank you. I look forward to working with you.

I like Democrats and Republicans. Like heaven and hell, I have friends in both places. I am willing to work with you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hall follows:]

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The Chairman. And as we know, you have sat on both sides of the aisle. Thank you.

Other members wishing to speak?

The gentleman from New York, Mr. Engel.

Mr. Engel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I support the bills, but I really want to take the opportunity to congratulate you, again, as chairman. You are a Member's Member; we all appreciate collegiality. You and I have gone back a long time, and I just want to congratulate you. It is a pleasure to be on this committee, thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Engel follows:]

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The Chairman. Other members wishing to speak?

The gentlelady from California.

Mrs. Capps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And my words of thanks will be brief as well, but starting with you, just for what you said just now; we are moving these bills now. Hopefully they will be in action and signed by the President shortly thanks to your quick efforts.

I want to thank also the folks, Ranking Member Waxman, Chairman Pitts, Ranking Member Pallone, for their work on the Children's Hospital Association Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research for backing H.R. 225, and my colleague Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers for all her hard work on this bill and to her personal commitment to children with special health care needs.

The National Pediatric Research Network Act also wouldn't be without where it is, and I want to mention -- I know we all have constituents, and I know you do, Mr. Chairman, but my family, a strong family in Santa Barbara, California, have created their own foundation on issues like this and have put such a great deal of support into this effort. They have dedicated their lives to working toward a clear and better treatment for children with spinal muscular atrophy. They are such a model of how hard work can make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

I also want to briefly thank Representative Kinzinger for his hard work on the EMT bill. I am proud to work with you, all of you, on this

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important legislation as well.

I urge support for both measures and yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Capps follows:]

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The Chairman. Thank you.

Other members wishing to speak?

Seeing none, no other members seek recognition.

The chair will call up H.R. 267, the Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2013. The first reading is dispensed with, and the bill is agreed and ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information follows:]

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The Chairman. Chair now calls up H.R. 316, the Collinsville Renewable Energy Promotion Act. The first reading is dispensed with. The bill is agreed to and ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information follows:]

***** INSERT 1-2 *****

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The Chairman. The chair now calls up H.R. 297, to amend the Public Service Health Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

The first reading is dispensed with. The bill is agreed to and favorably reported by unanimous consent.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information follows:]

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The Chairman. Chair now calls up H.R. 225, National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013.

First reading is dispensed with, and the bill is agreed to and ordered favorably reported by unanimous consent.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information follows:]

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The Chairman. The chair finally calls up H.R. 235, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2013.

The first reading is dispensed with. The bill is agreed to and ordered favorably by unanimous consent.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information follows:]

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The Chairman. And without objection, staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the bills approved by the committee today.

Hearing no objection, so ordered.

And without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

Thank you all.

[Whereupon, at 11:00 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]