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6   MARKUP ON H.R. 6020, HONOR OUR LIVING DONORS ACT;

7   H.R. 455, TO AMEND THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT TO FIX A

8   TECHNICAL ERROR IN THE DEFINITIONS;

9   H.R. 4534, WOMEN AND LUNG CANCER RESEARCH AND PREVENTIVE

10   SERVICES ACT OF 2023;

11   H.R. 5012, STILLBIRTH HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND EDUCATION

12   (SHINE) FOR AUTUMN ACT OF 2023;

13   H.R. 7213, AUTISM COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH,

14   EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT (CARES) ACT OF 2024;

15   H.R. 8084, LIVE BENEFICIARIES ACT;

16   H.R. 8089, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF

17   2024;

18   H.R. 8111, TO AMEND TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO

19   ENSURE THE RELIABILITY OF ADDRESS INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER

20   THE MEDICAID PROGRAM;

21   H.R. 8112, TO AMEND TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO

22 FURTHER REQUIRE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PROVIDER SCREENING UNDER

23 THE MEDICAID PROGRAM;

24 H.R. 4758, ACCELERATING KIDS' ACCESS TO CARE ACT;

25 H.R. 5526, SENIORS' ACCESS TO CRITICAL MEDICATIONS ACT;

26 H.R. 6033, SUPPORTING PATIENT EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE (SPEAK)

27 ACT OF 2023; AND

28 H.R. 7858, TELEHEALTH ENHANCEMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH ACT OF

29 2024

30 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024

31 House of Representatives,

32 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

33 Washington, D.C.

34

35   The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:04 a.m. in

36 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Cathy McMorris

37 Rodgers [chair of the committee] presiding.

38

39

40

41   Present: Representatives Rodgers, Burgess, Latta,

42 Guthrie, Griffith, Bilirakis, Bucshon, Hudson, Walberg,

43   Carter, Duncan, Palmer, Dunn, Curtis, Lesko, Pence, Crenshaw,

44   Joyce, Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger,

45   Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks, Cammack, Obernolte, James;

46   Pallone, Eshoo, DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor,

47   Sarbanes, Tonko, Clarke, Cardenas, Ruiz, Peters, Dingell,

48   Veasey, Kelly, Barragan, Soto, Craig, Schrier, Trahan, and

49   Fletcher.

50

51

52   Staff Present: Sarah Burke, Deputy Staff Director; Nick

53   Crocker, Senior Advisor and Director of Coalitions; Corey

54   Ensslin, Senior Policy Advisor; Kristin Fritsch, Professional

55   Staff Member; Seth Gold, Professional Staff Member; Nate

56   Hodson, Staff Director; Tara Hupman, Chief Counsel; Noah

57   Jackson, Clerk; Lauren Kennedy, Clerk; Alex Khlopin, Staff

58   Assistant; Peter Kielty, General Counsel; Chris Krepich,

59   Press Secretary; Molly Lolli, Counsel; Kaitlyn Peterson,

60   Clerk; Carla Rafael, Staff Assistant; Emma Schultheis, Clerk;

61   Lydia Abma, Minority Policy Analyst; Shana Beavin, Minority

62   Professional Staff Member; Keegan Cardman, Minority Staff

63   Assistant; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director and

64   General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff Director;

65   Perry Hamilton, Minority Member Services and Outreach

66   Manager; Tiana Hicks, Minority Intern; Saha Khaterzai,

67   Minority Professional Staff Member; Una Lee, Minority Chief

68   Health Counsel; Gayle Mauser, Minority Health Adviser;

69   Sanjana Miryala, Minority Intern; Caroline Oliver, Minority

70   Intern; Emma Roehrig, Minority Staff Assistant; and Grace

71   Schneider, Minority Intern.

72

73   *The Chair. The committee will come to order.

74   The chair recognizes herself for an opening statement.

75   Today the Committee on Energy and Commerce is taking

76   action on 13 bipartisan bills from the Health Subcommittee to

77   improve the health and well-being of the American people. It

78   is also Mr. James's -- although he is not here -- first full

79   committee markup. I know he has hit the ground running on

80   the committee as a bill on the agenda today, so I am thankful

81   for his contributions.

82   A number of bills today continue the important work of

83   the committee to support moms and children. For example, the

84   Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act will make it easier for

85   children enrolled in Medicaid to get the important specialty

86   care they need. Dr. Miller-Meeks has been a leader on this

87   legislation, and we have heard testimony from Iowa Children's

88   Hospital of the needless and detrimental delays in care due

89   to red tape. The bill is even more important now, with

90   exciting innovation in cell and gene therapies that could

91   cure children with sickle cell and other rare diseases, but

92   potentially require children to travel across the country.

93   Next, the SHINE for Autumn Act, which passed this

94   committee and the House floor overwhelmingly last Congress.

95   This is the second piece of legislation that we have moved to

96   help prevent the heartbreaking tragedy of stillbirth. I want

97   to share a special thanks to Debbie Haine, who is in the

98   audience today, for her steady, steadfast support and

99   dedication to raising awareness on stillbirths for over a

100   decade. This bill is named after her daughter, Autumn Joy,

101   who was born still on July 8, 2011, and we are honored to

102   remember Autumn today and to thank Debbie for her tireless

103   advocacy.

104   In addition, my friend, Representative Chris Smith, has

105   for decades led the effort for more research into autism and

106   the best ways to support the entire population of individuals

107   with autism and their families. The latest reauthorization

108   of the Autism CARES Act, which I am proud to support today,

109   continues important HHS-wide programs to further these goals.

110   We will also move Representative Obernolte's HOLD Act

111   forward to further support living organ donors who give the

112   miraculous gift of life to patients in need.

113   And while not included on today's agenda, reauthorizing

114   the Pediatric Rare Disease Priority Review Voucher Program at

115 FDA ahead of its September 30 expiration remains a top

116 priority. Patients with rare diseases and their families

117 continue to push for action, and by continuing to work

118 together we can pass it out of this committee with broad,

119 bipartisan support.

120   We are also voting on four bills to improve program

121 integrity in Medicaid. Bills from Representatives Bilirakis,

122 Miller-Meeks, D'Esposito, and Garcia will reduce the rate of

123 improper payments by ensuring that only current living

124 beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicaid, and only legitimate

125 providers participate in the program. Bills that require

126 timely disenrolling of deceased beneficiaries from Medicaid

127 may seem obvious, but the Office of Inspector General

128 continues to find it is an issue. I am glad these members

129 have prioritized being good stewards of Medicaid funds.

130   And finally, I want to highlight the work of the

131 committee as we continue to help seniors access health care.

132 This committee led on site-neutral reforms as a part of the

133 Lower Costs, More Transparency Act to make sure seniors paid

134 the same out of pocket for drug administration, regardless of

135 whether it was administered in a hospital or a doctor's

136 office.

137   During COVID-19 seniors were able to get specialty

138 medications directly from their oncologists, but this is no

139 longer the case. Mrs. Harshbarger's legislation will

140 reestablish this option for seniors for another five years,

141 and we will continue to work to improve access to telehealth

142 in Medicare.

143   Mr. James legislation will ensure program integrity

144 measures are in place so that we can more effectively see how

145 telehealth is working for patients on Medicare.

146   Mrs. Steel's legislation will make telehealth more

147 accessible for patients with limited English proficiency.

148   I will note members and our staff continue to work on a

149 fully paid package to extend telehealth flexibilities for

150 seniors, and include additional priorities on diabetic and

151 cardiac care. I am optimistic we will be able to move the

152 package before the August recess, and well before those

153 authorities expire at the end of the year.

154   I want to thank all the members for their hard work on

155 these bills and taking the time necessary to get the policy

156 right and move policies in a fiscally responsible way. All

157 of the legislation today that increases spending in Medicare

158 or Medicaid is offset with reductions in Medicare or Medicaid

159 spending, and I am proud that -- of all that we have and

160 continue to accomplish when we work together.

161 I yield back. I now recognize the gentleman from New

162 Jersey, the ranking member, Representative Pallone, for five

163 minutes for his opening statement.

164 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thanks for

165 all your efforts to achieve bipartisan bills today. The

166 committee is marking up 13 bills, all of which have

167 bipartisan support, and we will begin by considering a few

168 bills to strengthen our public health programs.

169 I am pleased we are advancing legislation championed by

170 Representative Boyle, who will allow HHS to evaluate -- this

171 bill will allow HHS, I should say, to evaluate existing

172 research on women and underserved populations and

173 correlations to lung cancer. And this bill is important

174 because it allows scientists and policy-makers to identify

175 opportunities to accelerate research in this area and develop

176 a public awareness campaign on lung cancer screening to

177 better reach underserved populations.

178   I am also pleased we are advancing this SHINE for Autumn

179   Act, led by Representative Castor on the Democratic side.

180   This legislation was spearheaded by Debbie Haines, who I

181   understand was originally from my district, and the purpose

182   is to give meaning and purpose to the tragic loss of her

183   daughter, Autumn, which -- and it is going to put a needed

184   focus on preventing stillbirths through enhanced data

185   collection, research, education, and awareness. This bill is

186   the beginning of a long-term solution to reducing stillbirth

187   rates that tragically affect many families.

188   Next we will consider a bill to strengthen the Medicaid

189   program. I am pleased we will consider H.R. 4758, the

190   Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act. And this bipartisan

191   bill streamlines the process for out-of-state pediatric

192   providers to enroll in Medicaid so that children who need

193   specialized treatment outside of their home state can access

194   that care in a timely manner. And I want to thank

195   Representative Trahan for her leadership on this bill, and I

196   hope that it will bring some peace of mind to the families of

197   children who face unnecessary and devastating delays in

198   getting the care they need.

199   We will also consider a bipartisan amendment to the

200   Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act that includes a

201   prohibition on spread pricing in Medicaid. Spread pricing

202   occurs when pharmacy benefit managers keep a portion of the

203   amount paid to them for prescription drugs, instead of

204   passing those payments on to pharmacies, and this practice

205   unnecessarily drives up pharmaceutical spending. Banning

206   spread pricing in Medicaid was part of the bipartisan Lower

207   Costs, More Transparency Act passed by the House in December,

208   and I hope that it can soon become law.

209   I am also pleased that we will consider 4 bipartisan

210   Medicaid program integrity bills, including H.R. 8111, which

211   will require states to collect beneficiary address

212   information from Medicaid managed care plans. And this

213   simple policy will help state Medicaid agencies stay in

214   better contact with beneficiaries to renew their eligibility,

215   while ensuring that beneficiaries who no longer live in the

216   state do not remain enrolled in the program.

217   Then there is H.R. 8084, the Live Beneficiaries Act that

218   requires states to more regularly check Social Security

219   Administration death records, ensuring Medicaid is not making

220 monthly payments to managed care plans for beneficiaries who

221 have passed away.

222   Now, turning to Medicare, I am glad we found a

223 bipartisan path forward on H.R. 5526. Congress enacted the

224 physician self-referral law, also known as the Stark Law, to

225 ensure that physician financial considerations do not

226 influence patient care. Under the Stark Law, physicians are

227 prohibited from making referrals to entities in which the

228 physician has a financial stake. Medicare beneficiaries

229 deserve the independent judgment of their physicians and

230 access to treatment that is medically appropriate and

231 necessary for them, and the Stark Law is critical in ensuring

232 that financial arrangements do not distort physicians'

233 decision-making or raise health care costs.

234   And while I have strong concerns with weakening the

235 Stark Law, I believe there are limited instances in which it

236 may be necessary for a caregiver or a family member to pick

237 up prescription drugs for patients or for prescription drugs

238 to be mailed, which is currently prohibited under the Stark

239 Law. I believe this narrow Stark exception would help

240 patients receive necessary medications but still protect

241 Medicare beneficiaries by ensuring that provider decisions

242 are made on the basis of clinical criteria. So I am pleased

243 we were able to include additional guardrails to ensure that

244 patients have access to treatment and care that is based on

245 medical necessity.

246   I am concerned that some technical assistance provided

247 by CMS has not yet been incorporated, but I understand that

248 Chair Rodgers has committed to work with me to address the

249 agency's feedback before the bill is considered on the House

250 floor. So I would like to thank the chair again for this

251 truly bipartisan process, and for only moving forward on

252 bills with bipartisan support today.

253   There are other health priorities, including telehealth,

254 that just were not ready for today, but I look forward to

255 continuing to work together on these outstanding bills.

256   And with that I yield back, Madam Chair, the balance of

257 my time.

258   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair

259 reminds members that, pursuant to committee rules, all

260 members' opening statements will be made part of the record.

261   Are there further opening statements?

262   The chair recognizes Mr. Guthrie for five minutes.

263   *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Madam Chair. Today's full

264   committee markup represents another important step to

265   ensuring Americans receive the highest quality and the most

266   affordable health care they need. Today we are marking up

267   legislation to provide greater access to lifesaving care for

268   kids; access to critical telehealth services for our seniors;

269   address critical program integrity issues in the Medicaid

270   program to provide access to care for vulnerable populations.

271   I would like to thank all the Health Subcommittee

272   colleagues and the staff for advancing these bills to the

273   full committee and for the bipartisanship on such important

274   issues.

275   Specifically, I would like to thank Representatives

276   Miller-Meeks and Bilirakis for their bipartisan work to

277   address program integrity issues in the Medicaid program.

278   We also have legislation, the Honor Our Living Donors

279   Act, that will help patients in need of a transplant gain

280   access to potential donors by making common-sense reforms to

281   the current program.

282   And while we are not addressing the more major bills or

283   comprehensive bills on telehealth today, we do have some

284   bills on telehealth. And thanks to Representative James and

285   Representative Steel for leading these important bills to

286   help seniors struggling in behavioral health care needs, in

287   addition to making telehealth more accessible to non-native

288   English speakers. And I know there is work to continue on

289   the more comprehensive telehealth bills and the Pediatric

290   Priority Review Voucher. I look forward to that work. Mr.

291   Bilirakis and Ms. Eshoo continue to work on legislation for

292   the Pediatric Priority Review and make other important

293   changes for rare disease drug development that we heard

294   testimony in the subcommittee on Rare Disease Day.

295   I look forward to discussion today, and I yield back.

296   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Are there

297   further opening statements?

298   The chair recognizes Ms. Eshoo for three minutes for an

299   opening statement.

300   *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, and good

301   morning, colleagues. Today, as the members have said, we are

302   considering 13 bills.

303   First, we will consider several bills to make the

304 Medicaid program more efficient by ensuring enrollment

305 information for physicians and patients is up to date.

306   Second, we will consider the SHINE for Autumn Act,

307 legislation introduced by Congresswomen Castor and Kelly to

308 close gaps in stillbirth data, research, and awareness to

309 ensure that all moms have healthy babies.

310   Third, we will consider the Women and Lung Cancer

311 Research and Preventive Services Act, legislation to move the

312 needle on the alarming increase of lung cancer diagnoses

313 among young women who have never smoked by commissioning more

314 research on prevention and treatment.

315   Unfortunately, we haven't reached bipartisan agreement

316 yet on my legislation, the Innovation in Pediatric Drugs Act.

317 I plan to continue bipartisan negotiations with you, Madam

318 Chairwoman, and our ranking member, Mr. Pallone, and

319 Congressman Bilirakis to identify an offset or a workaround

320 to accommodate increased funding for the NIH Best

321 Pharmaceuticals for Children Act program. The program is

322 critical for studying new uses for drugs to treat children

323 once the drugs lose their patent protections.

324   I appreciate and thank the chairwoman, our ranking

325 member, and Mr. Bilirakis for working with me on this

326 important issue. It is hard to find an agreement, and I

327 thank you and your staff for working closely with myself and

328 my staff to get the legislation to where it is today. And

329 where we are today, I believe, is very close to the finish

330 line. I look forward to finding, as I said, a bipartisan

331 solution.

332   I applaud the work that has gone into the bills that are

333 before us, and I look forward to this productive markup.

334   And I yield back.

335   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Are there

336 further opening statements?

337   The chair recognizes Mr. Bilirakis for three minutes for

338 the purposes of offering an opening statement.

339   *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you so much, Madam Chair. I will

340 be brief.

341   But I want to reiterate our commitment to work towards a

342 strong bipartisan resolution on the pediatric rare disease

343 package we put together a subcommittee under the Give Kids a

344 Chance Act. While I am disappointed that we couldn't

345 consider that legislation here today in the full committee

346   markup, I remain optimistic that we will be able to notice

347   and vote out as strong of a bipartisan showing as possible in

348   the next markup we schedule. I am fully committed to

349   continuing to negotiate and work out an agreement with my

350   friend and colleague, Representative Eshoo, and I know we are

351   very close to doing that, so I want to thank her for her good

352   faith efforts thus far. I know we both care about this issue

353   greatly, and I want to ensure we are incentivizing new

354   treatments and cures for children with rare diseases and

355   cancers.

356   We must move forward quickly to reauthorize the Rare

357   Pediatric Priority Review Voucher, which expires in

358   September. I know we are going to get it right. I also want

359   to thank the fellow co-leads on that bill, and that is

360   Representatives Trahan, Barragan, and Burgess for their

361   steadfast support and commitment to get this across the

362   finish line.

363   In the interim we have great policies in the -- on the

364   agenda today, including the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care

365   Act, the SPEAK Act, and SHINE for Autumn Act, among many

366   others. I thank the chair and the ranking member for putting

367 together this markup, and I look forward to supporting all of

368 these bills out of committee today.

369   And I will yield back the balance of my time unless

370 somebody wants it.

371   Thank you. I yield back.

372   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Are there

373 further opening statements?

374   Seeing none, the chair calls up H.R. 6020, as amended by

375 the Subcommittee on Health, and asks the clerk to report.

376   *The Clerk. H.R. 6020, a bill to amend the Public

377 Health Service Act to eliminate consideration of the income

378 of organ recipients and providing reimbursement of expenses

379 to donating --

380   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

381 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

382 amendment at any point.

383   So ordered.

384   [The bill follows:]

385

386 **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

387

388   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

389   bill?

390   The chair recognizes Mr. Obernolte for five minutes to

391   speak on the bill.

392   *Mr. Obernolte. Well, thank you, Madam Chair. I move

393   to strike the last word.

394   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

395   *Mr. Obernolte. Thank you, Madam Chair. It is an honor

396   to be able to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 6020, the

397   Honoring our Living Donor Act.

398   I think we can all agree that one of the most selfless

399   acts that someone can commit is the donation of an organ to

400   someone else, and yet it happens thousands of times each

401   year. In fact, in 2022 nearly 6,500 lives were saved through

402   the donation of a living -- of an organ by a living donor.

403   And yet there is a desperate need for more of these

404   donations. There are currently more than 100,000 Americans

405   on the waiting list awaiting a transplant. And in 2021,

406   6,000 people in the United States died while waiting for a

407   transplant.

408   Between 2006 and 2021 there -- the list of Americans

409   waiting for a kidney donation rose by over 50 percent. But

410   unfortunately, kidney donations declined by seven percent.

411   And this year over 100 Americans are added to that waiting

412   list every single day. And the reason for this is that it is

413   a huge commitment to be a living organ donor.

414   In addition to the medical commitment, the typical

415   living organ donor spends over 10 percent of their annual

416   income just to be a donor. On average, they have to take two

417   weeks off of work -- it is six weeks off of work if the work

418   involves physical exertion -- and it is a huge burden on

419   these people. So we want to make it easier for people to be

420   living organ donors.

421   In 2007 Congress established the National Living Organ

422   Donor Assistance Center, which provides assistance

423   financially to donors who make less than 350 percent of the

424   poverty line. However, that means test is applied not only

425   to the income of the donor, but also to the income of the

426   recipient, which is actually pretty nonsensical and has

427   resulted in many people who would be eligible for assistance

428   to not be eligible for that assistance.

429   This bill, H.R. 6020, would correct that problem by

430   clarifying that the means test applies only to the donor and

431   not to the recipient of the organ. Hopefully, this will

432   incentivize more people to take the selfless step of becoming

433   living organ donors, and get those organ donations back up to

434   where they are more meeting the need.

435   I would like to thank Congresswoman Susan DelBene for

436   her work on this bill and for co-leading the bill with me.

437   This is a common-sense bill that passed out of subcommittee

438   unanimously. I would request -- respectfully request your

439   support on the bill.

440   I yield back.

441   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

442   further discussion?

443   For what purpose does the gentlelady seek recognition?

444   *Ms. Matsui. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last

445   word.

446   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

447   minutes.

448   *Ms. Matsui. I am glad to see the committee taking up

449   legislation to address the shortage of available organs for

450   transplant. I support the HOLD Act, and I am confident it

451   will save lives. But we still have a lot of work left to do

452   to address the national organ shortage.

453   Every day 17 Americans die waiting for an organ,

454   Americans we could save with updated public policy. We need

455   bold action to prevent this needless loss of life. That is

456   why, at the start of this Congress, I introduced the Organ

457   Donation Clarification Act, which includes language to ensure

458   more potential donors are eligible for Federal support. This

459   language is mirrored in the HOLD Act, which I am supporting

460   today.

461   Beyond the language before us today, my bill would

462   ensure potential donors would receive the comprehensive

463   support they need to be able to donate. It would also allow

464   for the testing of new and innovative technologies or methods

465   to increase donations. Today there are over 100,000 patients

466   waiting for a kidney. Most of them will never get one. This

467   is a national crisis. To meet the magnitude of this crisis,

468   we must do more. We should pass the HOLD Act today, and I

469   hope this committee can continue to work on this issue,

470   including by taking up my Organ Donation Clarification Act.

471   I yield the balance of my time.

472   *The Chair. The gentlelady, Ms. Matsui, yields back.

473   Is there further discussion?

474   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 6020, as

475   amended, and a roll call vote has been requested. The clerk

476   will call the roll.

477   *The Clerk. Burgess?

478   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

479   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

480   Latta?

481   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

482   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

483   Guthrie?

484   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

485   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

486   Griffith?

487   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

488   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

489   Bilirakis?

490   *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

491   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

492   Bucshon?

493   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

494   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

495   Hudson?

496   [No response.]

497   *The Clerk. Walberg?

498   [No response.]

499   *The Clerk. Carter?

500   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

501   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

502   Duncan?

503   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

504   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

505   Palmer?

506   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

507   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

508   Dunn?

509   [No response.]

510   *The Clerk. Curtis?

511   *Mr. Curtis. Aye.

512   *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.

513   Lesko?

514   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

515   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

516   Pence?

517   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

518   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

519   Crenshaw?

520   [No response.]

521   *The Clerk. Joyce?

522   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

523   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

524   Armstrong?

525   [No response.]

526   *The Clerk. Weber?

527   *Mr. Weber. Aye.

528   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

529   Allen?

530   [No response.]

531   *The Clerk. Balderson?

532   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

533   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

534   Fulcher?

535   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

536   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

537   Pfluger?

538   [No response.]

539   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

540   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

541   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

542   Miller-Meeks?

543   [No response.]

544   *The Clerk. Cammack?

545   *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

546   *The Clerk. Cammack votes aye.

547   Obernolte?

548   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

549   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

550   James?

551   *Mr. James. Aye.

552   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

553   Pallone?

554   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

555   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

556   Eshoo?

557   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

558   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

559   DeGette?

560   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

561   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

562   Schakowsky?

563   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

564   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

565   Matsui?

566   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

567   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

568   Castor?

569   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

570   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

571   Sarbanes?

572   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

573   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

574   Tonko?

575   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

576   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

577   Clarke?

578   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

579   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

580   Cardenas?

581   [No response.]

582   *The Clerk. Ruiz?

583   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

584   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

585   Peters?

586   [No response.]

587   *The Clerk. Dingell?

588   [No response.]

589   *The Clerk. Veasey?

590   [No response.]

591   *The Clerk. Kuster?

592   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

593   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

594   Kelly?

595   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

596   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

597   Barragan?

598   *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

599   *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.

600   Blunt Rochester?

601   [No response.]

602   *The Clerk. Soto?

603   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

604   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

605   Craig?

606   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

607   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

608   Schrier?

609   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

610   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

611   Trahan?

612   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

613   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

614   Fletcher?

615   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

616   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

617   Rodgers?

618   *The Chair. Aye.

619   *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

620   *The Chair. Oh, Madam Clerk --

621   *The Clerk. Mr. --

622   *The Chair. How is Mr. Cardenas --

623   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

624   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

625   *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell.

626   *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell is not recorded.

627   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

628   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

629   [Pause.]

630   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

631   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers --

632   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Veasey recorded?

633   *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

634   *Mr. Veasey. Would you record Mr. Veasey as aye?

635   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

636   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

637   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 42

638 ayes and 0 noes.

639   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

640   The chair calls up H.R. 455, and asks the clerk to

641   report.

642   *The Clerk. H.R. 455, a bill to amend the Controlled

643   Substances Act to fix a technical error in the definitions.

644   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

645   bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

646   amendment at any point.

647   So ordered.

648   [The bill follows:]

649

650   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

651

652   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

653 bill?

654   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 455, and a

655 roll call vote has been requested. The clerk will call the

656 roll.

657   *The Clerk. Burgess?

658   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

659   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

660 Latta?

661   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

662   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

663 Guthrie?

664   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

665   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

666 Griffith?

667   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

668   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

669 Bilirakis?

670   *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

671   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

672 Bucshon?

673   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

674   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

675   Hudson?

676   [No response.]

677   *The Clerk. Walberg?

678   [No response.]

679   *The Clerk. Carter?

680   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

681   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

682   Duncan?

683   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

684   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

685   Palmer?

686   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

687   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

688   Dunn?

689   [No response.]

690   *The Clerk. Curtis?

691   *Mr. Curtis. Aye.

692   *The Clerk. Curtis votes aye.

693   Lesko?

694   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

695   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

696   Pence?

697   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

698   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

699   Crenshaw?

700   [No response.]

701   *The Clerk. Joyce?

702   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

703   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

704   Armstrong?

705   [No response.]

706   *The Clerk. Weber?

707   *Mr. Weber. Yes.

708   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

709   Allen?

710   [No response.]

711   *The Clerk. Balderson?

712   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

713   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

714   Fulcher?

715   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

716   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

717   Pfluger?

718   [No response.]

719   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

720   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

721   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

722   Miller-Meeks?

723   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

724   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

725   Cammack?

726   *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

727   *The Clerk. Cammack votes aye.

728   Obernolte?

729   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

730   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

731   James?

732   *Mr. James. Aye.

733   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

734   Pallone?

735   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

736   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

737   Eshoo?

738   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

739   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

740   DeGette?

741   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

742   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

743   Schakowsky?

744   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

745   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

746   Matsui?

747   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

748   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

749   Castor?

750   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

751   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

752   Sarbanes?

753   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

754   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

755   Tonko?

756   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

757   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

758   Clarke?

759   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

760   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

761   Cardenas?

762   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

763   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

764   Ruiz?

765   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

766   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

767   Peters?

768   [No response.]

769   *The Clerk. Dingell?

770   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

771   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

772   Veasey?

773   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

774   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

775   Kuster?

776   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

777   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

778   Kelly?

779   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

780   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

781   Barragan?

782   *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

783   *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.

784   Blunt Rochester?

785   [No response.]

786   *The Clerk. Soto?

787   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

788   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

789   Craig?

790   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

791   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

792   Schrier?

793   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

794   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

795   Trahan?

796   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

797   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

798   Fletcher?

799   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

800   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

801   Chair Rodgers?

802   *The Chair. Aye.

803   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

804   [Pause.]

805   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

806   Oh, Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Peters recorded?

807   *The Clerk. Mr. Peters is not recorded.

808   *The Chair. Oh.

809   [Pause.]

810   *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

811   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

812   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

813   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 44

814   ayes and 0 noes.

815   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

816   The chair calls up H.R. 4534, as amended by the

817   Subcommittee on Health, and asks the clerk to report.

818   *The Clerk. H.R. 4534, a bill to require a review of

819   women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

40

820   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

821   bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment

822   at any point. So ordered.

823   [The bill follows:]

824

825   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

826

827   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

828 bill?

829   For what purpose does Mr. Ruiz seek recognition?

830   *Mr. Ruiz. I would like to strike the last word.

831   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

832 minutes.

833   *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Chairwoman. According to the

834 CDC, lung cancer is the third most common cancer in the

835 United States. While the number of new lung cancer cases is

836 decreasing, more work needs to be done to reduce barriers to

837 preventative screenings and innovative treatments. We need

838 to address the disparity in lung cancer cases between men and

839 women so we can save more lives. That is why this bipartisan

840 bill, H.R. 4534, the Women in Lung Cancer Research and

841 Preventative Services Act that I cosponsored, is so

842 important.

843   I am -- and I would like to thank my colleagues,

844 Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester and Representative Boyle

845 on Ways and Means for their work on this legislation.

846   This bill would require HHS and the Department of

847 Defense and the VA to collaborate on an interagency review of

848   women in lung cancer and preventative services, as well as

849   identify opportunities for improving research. It would also

850   increase public awareness of this disease. So I urge my

851   colleagues to support this bill in markup today.

852   While it is not under consideration by the committee

853   today, I would like to reiterate my support for another

854   bipartisan bill that I am an original cosponsor of, H.R.

855   2407, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early

856   Detection Screening Coverage Act. This bill would increase

857   access to multi-cancer early detection tests for our nation's

858   seniors, and this is -- has lifesaving potential. So I urge

859   my colleagues to join me and cosponsor H.R. 2407, and I urge

860   the committee to include this bill in future markups in any

861   health care package that is being worked on.

862   Thank you, and I yield back.

863   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

864   further discussion?

865   Seeing none, the question now occurs on approving H.R.

866   4534, as amended, and a roll call vote has been requested.

867   The clerk will call the roll.

868   *The Clerk. Burgess?

869   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

870   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

871   Latta?

872   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

873   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

874   Guthrie?

875   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

876   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

877   Griffith?

878   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

879   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

880   Bilirakis?

881   *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

882   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

883   Bucshon?

884   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

885   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

886   Hudson?

887   [No response.]

888   *The Clerk. Walberg?

889   [No response.]

890   *The Clerk. Carter?

891   [No response.]

892   *The Clerk. Duncan?

893   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

894   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

895   Palmer?

896   [No response.]

897   *The Clerk. Dunn?

898   [No response.]

899   *The Clerk. Curtis?

900   [No response.]

901   *The Clerk. Lesko?

902   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

903   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

904   Pence?

905   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

906   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

907   Crenshaw?

908   [No response.]

909   *The Clerk. Joyce?

910   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

911   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

912   Armstrong?

913   [No response.]

914   *The Clerk. Weber?

915   *Mr. Weber. Yes, ma'am.

916   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

917   Allen?

918   [No response.]

919   *The Clerk. Balderson?

920   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

921   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

922   Fulcher?

923   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

924   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

925   Pfluger?

926   [No response.]

927   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

928   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

929   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

930   Miller-Meeks?

931   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

932   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

933   Cammack?

934   *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

935   *The Clerk. Cammack votes aye.

936   Obernolte?

937   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

938   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

939   James?

940   *Mr. James. Aye.

941   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

942   Pallone?

943   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

944   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

945   Eshoo?

946   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

947   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

948   DeGette?

949   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

950   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

951   Schakowsky?

952   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

953   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

954   Matsui?

955   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

956   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

957   Castor?

958   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

959   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

960   Sarbanes?

961   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

962   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

963   Tonko?

964   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

965   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

966   Clarke?

967   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

968   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

969   Cardenas?

970   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

971   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

972   Ruiz?

973   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

974   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

975   Peters?

976   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

977   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

978   Dingell?

979   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

980   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

981   Veasey?

982   [No response.]

983   *The Clerk. Veasey?

984   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

985   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

986   Kuster?

987   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

988   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

989   Kelly?

990   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

991   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

992   Barragan?

993   *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

994   *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.

995   Blunt Rochester?

996   [No response.]

997   *The Clerk. Soto?

998   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

999   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

1000   Craig?

1001   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

1002   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

1003   Schrier?

1004   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1005   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

1006   Trahan?

1007   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

1008   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

1009   Fletcher?

1010   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

1011   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

1012   Chair Rodgers?

1013   *The Chair. Aye.

1014   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

1015   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Palmer recorded?

1016   *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

1017   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1018   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

1019   *The Chair. How is Mr. Carter recorded?

1020   *The Clerk. Mr. Carter is not recorded.

1021   *Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.

1022   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

1023   *The Chair. How is Mr. Allen recorded?

1024   *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not recorded.

1025   *Mr. Allen. Allen votes aye.

1026   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

1027   [Pause.]

1028   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

1029   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 44

1030   ayes and 0 noes.

1031   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

1032   The chair calls up H.R. 5012, and asks the clerk to

1033   report.

1034   *The Clerk. H.R. 5012, a bill to improve research and

1035   data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

1036   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

1037   bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment

1038   at any point.

1039   So ordered.

1040   [The bill follows:]

1041

1042   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

1043

1044   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

1045   bill?

1046   *Mrs. Lesko. Madam Chair?

1047   *The Chair. For what purpose does Mrs. Lesko seek

1048   recognition?

1049   *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Madam Chair. I move to strike

1050   the last word.

1051   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

1052   minutes.

1053   *Mrs. Lesko. Stillbirth is one of the most tragic

1054   things a family can go through. And sadly, more than 60 --

1055   this is wrong, 60 families, it must be 60 million -- families

1056   feel this pain every day in the United States.

1057   But there is hope. At least 25 percent of these

1058   stillbirths are preventable. We just have to put the work in

1059   to get it there. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill

1060   that will increase data collection and reporting in

1061   stillbirths, provide improved fetal autopsy training to

1062   better learn about the causes of stillbirth, and more

1063   awareness and education about stillbirths, their causes, and

1064   ways they can be prevented.

1065   Although we may never completely eradicate stillbirth,

1066 we can take a big step in doing so with this legislation so

1067 more families are not faced with the incomprehensible loss of

1068 losing a child. I urge my colleagues to support this

1069 legislation.

1070   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

1071   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair

1072 recognizes -- for what purpose does Ms. Castor seek

1073 recognition?

1074   *Ms. Castor. I move to strike the last word, Madam

1075 Chair.

1076   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

1077 minutes.

1078   *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Madam Chair.

1079   Members, there are too many stillbirths in America

1080 today, and that is why it is so heartening that the committee

1081 is going to do something about it by moving bipartisan

1082 legislation, the SHINE for Autumn Act that I am co-leading

1083 with Representatives Kim, Kelly, and Joyce. And thanks to

1084 the other cosponsors here -- I know Representative Trahan,

1085 Representative Blunt Rochester, Representative Lesko.

1086   But I want to also particularly thank Chair Rodgers and

1087   Ranking Member Pallone. You all have been consistent in your

1088   support and encouragement for this legislation along the way,

1089   all -- including the professional staff. So thank you, as

1090   well.

1091   The SHINE for Autumn Act is not new to this committee.

1092   We passed it unanimously at the last Congress out of

1093   committee. It passed the House. We just need to get it

1094   across the finish line in the Senate because the need for

1095   action is urgent.

1096   The bill is named for Autumn Joy, who was born still on

1097   July 8, 2011. Her mother, Debbie, has turned Autumn's tragic

1098   death into a mission to increase stillbirth awareness and

1099   education, and ultimately to decrease the number of families

1100   who experience such a heartbreaking loss. Many of you met

1101   have met Debbie. And if you haven't, just know that she is a

1102   force for positive change.

1103   Thank you, Debbie, for galvanizing families across

1104   America to get Congress to act because stillbirth is a public

1105   health crisis in the United States, with over 21,000

1106   stillbirths every year, almost 60 babies dying every day.

1107   That exceeds the number of deaths for children age 0 to 14

1108   from guns, accidents, pre-term births, SIDS, drowning, fire,

1109   and flu combined.

1110   And like too many other maternal and child health

1111   issues, there are persistent and longstanding disparities,

1112   with Black women more than twice as likely to experience

1113   stillbirth than White women. At least one out of four

1114   stillbirths is estimated to be preventable, but there is

1115   still so much that we don't know. That is why we need real

1116   change. We need measurable improvements for families.

1117   The SHINE for Autumn Act will improve surveillance and

1118   data collection relating to stillbirth nationwide. It will

1119   invest in research to examine the causes and risk factors.

1120   Additionally, it will seek to increase education and

1121   awareness around stillbirth. Parents deserve better data and

1122   science, and I know that until an issue has been carefully

1123   researched, analyzed, and quantified, it is nearly impossible

1124   to take meaningful action.

1125   We need a clearer picture as to why babies are dying if

1126   we want to make progress towards reducing stillbirth rates

1127   and improving outcomes. So with timely and accurate data, we

1128 can begin to understand the underlying causes and guide

1129 policy actions and much-needed strategies for prevention.

1130 Together our committee can address the serious maternal and

1131 infant health crisis that is tearing so many families apart

1132 and causing significant pain and trauma.

1133   And I know there are others here today who are among the

1134 91 bipartisan cosponsors. Thank you. Thank you for your

1135 unanimous vote last Congress. Thank you for helping us get

1136 it past the House, and talk to your Senators about making

1137 this a priority, too. Thank you again for your vote today to

1138 support Debbie and Autumn Joy, and all the other families who

1139 have been impacted by this public health crisis. Thank you

1140 for focusing on solutions.

1141   I yield back.

1142   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

1143 further discussion?

1144   For what purpose does Mr. Carter seek recognition?

1145   *Mr. Carter. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last

1146 word.

1147   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

1148 minutes.

1149   *Mr. Carter. Every year over 21,000 babies are still

1150   born in the United States. No family should endure such an

1151   unimaginable tragedy. The SHINE for Autumn Act aims to

1152   address these alarming statistics through enhanced data

1153   collection, research, education, and awareness.

1154   Thank you to Chairwoman Rodgers, Representative Kim, and

1155   Representative Castor for your leadership in bringing this

1156   bipartisan bill before this committee today.

1157   We need to pass this bill this Congress. This [sic] is

1158   absolutely no reason this should wait. I urge all my

1159   colleagues to support the SHINE Act, SHINE for Autumn Act, so

1160   we can move this bill forward and start making a difference

1161   in the lives of babies and families nationwide.

1162   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

1163   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

1164   further discussion?

1165   The chair recognizes -- or for what purpose does Ms.

1166   Kelly seek recognition?

1167   *Ms. Kelly. I move to strike the last word.

1168   *The Chair. The gentlelady recognized for five minutes.

1169   *Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Madam Chair. As you have heard,

1170   there are over 20,000 stillborn babies each year in the

1171   United States. This is a deeply painful experience for

1172   mothers and family. And what is even more troubling,

1173   according to research, nearly a quarter of these stillbirths

1174   can be prevented, with the majority occurring in low-risk

1175   pregnancies.

1176   Black women, Medicaid recipients, and residents of rural

1177   areas bear a disproportionate share of these tragic losses,

1178   underscoring the urgent need for targeted interventions and

1179   equitable access to care.

1180   These disparities in our maternity care system have

1181   profound consequences. Maternity and newborn care account

1182   for a significant portion of hospital expenditures for most

1183   commercial insurers and state Medicaid programs. With

1184   Medicaid covering 42 percent of births in the United States,

1185   the Federal Government bears substantial responsibility for

1186   ensuring the quality and value of maternal newborn care.

1187   We cannot remain complacent. We can and must do more to

1188   mitigate the risk of stillbirth and offer support to those

1189   who have suffered such a traumatic loss. That is why I am

1190   proud to join the bipartisan SHINE for Autumn Act, along with

1191   my colleagues, Representative Castor, my co-chair of the

1192   bipartisan Maternity Care Caucus, Representative Young Kim,

1193   and Representative Joyce.

1194   Importantly, these bills allocate funds, as you have

1195   heard, to enhance data collection, increase training in

1196   perinatal pathology, and disseminate educational materials on

1197   stillbirths. This legislation will give families a true

1198   chance to thrive and is vital for bridging research gaps.

1199   For these reasons I urge my colleagues to once again support

1200   this bill so that no mother has to endure the heartbreak of

1201   having a stillborn baby.

1202   Thank you, and I yield back.

1203   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

1204   further discussion?

1205   For what purpose does Ms. Miller-Meeks seek recognition?

1206   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Madam Chair, I move to strike the

1207   last word.

1208   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

1209   minutes.

1210   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 5012,

1211   Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education for Autumn Act,

1212   sponsored by my friend and colleague, Young Kim. This

1213   legislation would authorize grants and improve data

1214   collection processes for the prevention of stillbirths.

1215   In 2021, 164 Iowans were stillborn, wreaking havoc on

1216   expecting mothers and families who wait 9 months for the

1217   joyful occasion, only to be met with tragedy and guilt and

1218   remorse.

1219   Stillbirth is possible for all pregnancies, even ones

1220   that are seemingly low risk. This legislation would create

1221   the first nationally coordinated effort to address and reduce

1222   stillbirths, and I am proud to be supportive of this effort.

1223   And I thank Autumn's mom for being here with us today

1224   and championing this cause.

1225   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back the balance of

1226   my time.

1227   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

1228   further discussion?

1229   Seeing none, the question now occurs on approving H.R.

1230   5012, and a roll call vote has been requested. The clerk

1231   will call the roll.

1232   *The Clerk. Burgess?

1233   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1234   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1235   Latta?

1236   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1237   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

1238   Guthrie?

1239   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

1240   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

1241   Griffith?

1242   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1243   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

1244   Bilirakis?

1245   *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1246   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

1247   Bucshon?

1248   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1249   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

1250   Hudson?

1251   [No response.]

1252   *The Clerk. Walberg?

1253   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

1254   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

1255   Carter?

1256   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

1257   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

1258   Duncan?

1259   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

1260   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

1261   Palmer?

1262   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1263   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

1264   Dunn?

1265   [No response.]

1266   *The Clerk. Curtis?

1267   [No response.]

1268   *The Clerk. Lesko?

1269   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

1270   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

1271   Pence?

1272   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1273   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

1274   Crenshaw?

1275   [No response.]

1276   *The Clerk. Joyce?

1277   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

1278   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

1279   Armstrong?

1280   [No response.]

1281   *The Clerk. Weber?

1282   *Mr. Weber. Yes.

1283   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

1284   Allen?

1285   *Mr. Allen. Aye.

1286   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

1287   Balderson?

1288   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

1289   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

1290   Fulcher?

1291   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

1292   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

1293   Pfluger?

1294   [No response.]

1295   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

1296   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Yes.

1297   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

1298   Miller-Meeks?

1299   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.

1300   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

1301   Cammack?

1302   *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

1303   *The Clerk. Cammack votes aye.

1304   Obernolte?

1305   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

1306   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

1307   James?

1308   *Mr. James. Aye.

1309   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

1310   Pallone?

1311   [No response.]

1312   *The Clerk. Eshoo?

1313   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

1314   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

1315   DeGette?

1316   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

1317   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

1318   Schakowsky?

1319   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

1320   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

1321   Matsui?

1322   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

1323   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

1324   Castor?

1325   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

1326   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

1327   Sarbanes?

1328   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

1329   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

1330   Tonko?

1331   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

1332   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

1333   Clarke?

1334   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

1335   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

1336   Cardenas?

1337   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

1338   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

1339   Ruiz?

1340   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1341   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

1342   Peters?

1343   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

1344   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

1345   Dingell?

1346   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

1347   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

1348   Veasey?

1349   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

1350   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

1351   Kuster?

1352   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

1353   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

1354   Kelly?

1355   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

1356   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

1357   Barragan?

1358   *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

1359   *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.

1360   Blunt Rochester?

1361   [No response.]

1362   *The Clerk. Soto?

1363   *Mr. Soto. No.

1364   *The Clerk. Soto votes no.

1365   *Mr. Soto. Aye, aye.

1366   [Laughter.]

1367   *The Clerk. Soto is off no, on aye.

1368   Craig?

1369   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

1370   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

1371   Schrier?

1372   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1373   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

1374   Trahan?

1375   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

1376   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

1377   Fletcher?

1378   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

1379   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

1380   Chair Rodgers?

1381   *The Chair. Aye.

1382   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

1383   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Pallone recorded?

1384   *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone is not recorded.

1385   *Mr. Pallone. Votes aye.

1386   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

1387   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

1388   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 45

1389 ayes and 0 noes.

1390   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

1391 Good news.

1392   We will now recess the floor votes -- for floor votes

1393 and resume 10 minutes after the last floor vote is called.

1394 The committee will stand in recess.

1395   [Recess.]

1396   *The Chair. The committee will come to order. The

1397 chair calls up H.R. 6020.

1398   Is that right? Is that what we just did?

1399   Okay, the chair calls up H.R. 7213, as amended by the

1400 Subcommittee on Health, and asks the clerk to report.

1401   *The Clerk. H.R. 7213, a bill to amend the Public

1402   Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National

1403   Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism

1404   spectrum disorder, and enhance programs --

1405   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

1406   bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

1407   amendment at any point.

1408   So ordered.

1409   [The bill follows:]

1410

1411   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

1412

1413   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

1414 bill?

1415   *Mr. Latta. Madam Chair?

1416   *The Chair. For what purpose does Mr. Latta seek

1417 recognition?

1418   *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Madam Chair. I have an

1419 amendment at the desk in the nature of a substitute.

1420   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

1421   *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

1422 committee print of H.R. 7213 --

1423   *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

1424 amendment is dispensed with.

1425   [The amendment of Mr. Latta follows:]

1426

1427 **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

1428

1429   *The Chair.   The gentleman is recognized for five

1430   minutes in support of his amendment.

1431   *Mr. Latta.   Thank you very much, Madam Chair.   I rise

1432   in support of the amendment and underlying bill, H.R. 7213,

1433   the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research,

1434   Education, and Support Act, or the Autism CARES Act of 2024,

1435   led by the gentleman from New Jersey's 4th congressional

1436   district.

1437   According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 5.4

1438   million U.S. adults were estimated to have autism spectrum

1439   disorder, or ASD, in 2017.   This accounts for a 178 percent

1440   increase in the prevalence since 2000.   Further, 1 in every

1441   36 children were diagnosed with ASD in 2020.

1442   The programs and activities authorized under the Autism

1443   CARES Act serve as the primary driver of autism research,

1444   services, training, and monitoring across the Federal

1445   Government.   This AINS makes certain improvements to the

1446   current programing, including ensuring that programs are

1447   appropriately channeling resources towards the most impactful

1448   forms of research and services, as well as coordinating

1449   across the various programs at the NIH, CDC, and HRSA.

1450   Most importantly, this bill takes steps to ensure the

1451   public and all individuals with the ASD community have an

1452   opportunity to engage in and are included in the research

1453   process and other activities related to autism.

1454   I am proud of the work that has been done on this bill,

1455   and the engagement and communications of the stakeholders

1456   throughout this process. I encourage my colleagues to

1457   support the AINS and the underlying legislation.

1458   Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield back the balance of my

1459   time.

1460   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

1461   further discussion?

1462   If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on --

1463   oh, for what purpose does Mr. Carter seek recognition?

1464   *Mr. Carter. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last

1465   word.

1466   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

1467   minutes.

1468   *Mr. Carter. The Autism CARES Act has been the single

1469   most important driver of Federal investment in autism

1470   research and training programs over the past two decades. It

1471   has led to improvements in early intervention services, a

1472   better understanding of the prevalence of autism, and a

1473   better understanding of the co-occurring health conditions

1474   that autistic people experience.

1475   Importantly, it has also been responsible for thousands

1476   of future health professionals being trained on how to

1477   screen, diagnose, and provide interventions to autistic

1478   people and other individuals with neurodevelopmental

1479   disabilities to improve their health and well-being. Thanks

1480   to the Autism CARES Act, many health professionals are better

1481   equipped to meet the ever-changing and diverse needs of

1482   autistic people and other people with neurodevelopmental

1483   disabilities.

1484   This bill will ensure ongoing support by NIH of research

1485   at institutions like the Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta and

1486   the Georgia LEND Program at Georgia State University.

1487   Located in my home state of Georgia within Children's

1488   Healthcare of Atlanta, the Marcus Autism Center is one of the

1489   largest organizations in the country that blends research on

1490   autism with providing clinical services for children on the

1491   autism spectrum and their families. It is my hope the House

1492 will consider this bill as soon as possible, so we can work

1493 with the Senate to secure passage and enactment into law

1494 before the current authorization expires at the end of this

1495 fiscal year.

1496   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I will yield back.

1497   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there any

1498 further discussion?

1499   Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment.

1500   All those in favor will signify by saying aye.

1501   Those opposed, nay.

1502   The ayes have it, the amendment is agreed to.

1503   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 7213, as

1504 amended, and a roll call vote has been requested. The clerk

1505 will call the roll.

1506   *The Clerk. Burgess?

1507   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1508   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1509   Latta?

1510   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1511   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

1512   Guthrie?

1513   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

1514   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

1515   Griffith?

1516   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1517   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

1518   Bilirakis?

1519   *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1520   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

1521   Bucshon?

1522   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1523   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

1524   Hudson?

1525   [No response.]

1526   *The Clerk. Walberg?

1527   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

1528   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

1529   Carter?

1530   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

1531   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

1532   Duncan?

1533   *Mr. Duncan. Yes.

1534   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

1535   Palmer?

1536   [No response.]

1537   *The Clerk. Dunn?

1538   [No response.]

1539   *The Clerk. Curtis?

1540   [No response.]

1541   *The Clerk. Lesko?

1542   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

1543   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

1544   Pence?

1545   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1546   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

1547   Crenshaw?

1548   [No response.]

1549   *The Clerk. Joyce?

1550   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

1551   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

1552   Armstrong?

1553   [No response.]

1554   *The Clerk. Weber?

1555   *Mr. Weber. Yes.

1556   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

1557   Allen?

1558   *Mr. Allen. Aye.

1559   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

1560   Balderson?

1561   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

1562   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

1563   Fulcher?

1564   [No response.]

1565   *The Clerk. Pfluger?

1566   [No response.]

1567   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

1568   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

1569   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

1570   Miller-Meeks?

1571   [No response.]

1572   *The Clerk. Cammack?

1573   *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

1574   *The Clerk. Cammack votes aye.

1575   Obernolte?

1576   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

1577   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

1578   James?

1579   *Mr. James. Aye.

1580   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

1581   Pallone?

1582   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1583   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

1584   Eshoo?

1585   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

1586   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

1587   DeGette?

1588   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

1589   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

1590   Schakowsky?

1591   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

1592   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

1593   Matsui?

1594   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

1595   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

1596   Castor?

1597   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

1598   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

1599   Sarbanes?

1600   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

1601   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

1602   Tonko?

1603   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

1604   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

1605   Clarke?

1606   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

1607   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

1608   Cardenas?

1609   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

1610   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

1611   Ruiz?

1612   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1613   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

1614   Peters?

1615   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

1616   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

1617   Dingell?

1618   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

1619   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

1620   Veasey?

1621   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

1622   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

1623   Kuster?

1624   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

1625   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

1626   Kelly?

1627   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

1628   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

1629   Barragan?

1630   [No response.]

1631   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

1632   [No response.]

1633   *The Clerk. Soto?

1634   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

1635   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

1636   Craig?

1637   [No response.]

1638   *The Clerk. Schrier?

1639   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1640   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

1641   Trahan?

1642   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

1643   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

1644   Fletcher?

1645   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

1646   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

1647   Chair Rodgers?

1648   *The Chair. Aye.

1649   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

1650   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Palmer recorded?

1651   *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

1652   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1653   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

1654   *Mr. Dunn. How is Dunn recorded?

1655   *The Clerk. Dunn is not recorded.

1656   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

1657   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

1658   [Pause.]

1659   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

The statements within may be

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

1660   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 42

1661   ayes and 0 noes.

1662   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

1663   The chair calls up H.R. 8084, and asks the clerk to

1664   report.

1665   *The Clerk. H.R. 8084, a bill to amend title 19 of the

1666   Social Security Act to require states to verify certain

1667   eligibility criteria --

1668   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

1669   bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment

1670   at any point.

1671   So ordered.

1672   [The bill follows:]

1673

1674   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

1675

1676   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

1677   bill?

1678   [Pause.]

1679   *Mr. Bilirakis. On the amendment, Madam Chair.

1680   *The Chair. Oh, are there any amendments?

1681   Mr. Bilirakis.

1682   *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you.

1683   *The Chair. For what purpose do you seek recognition?

1684   *Mr. Bilirakis. I have an amendment at the desk.

1685   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

1686   *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

1687   H.R. 8084, offered by Mr. Bilirakis.

1688   Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert the

1689   following --

1690   *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

1691   amendment is dispensed with.

1692   [The amendment of Mr. Bilirakis follows:]

1693

1694   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

1695

1696   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

1697 minutes in support of his amendment.

1698   *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. I

1699 want to offer this AINS to my bipartisan bill, the -- it is

1700 H.R. 8084, the Leveraging Integrity and Verification of

1701 Eligibility, or LIVE, Beneficiaries Act.

1702   I am grateful to work alongside Representative Craig,

1703 and thank her for her support.

1704   It is a common-sense bill, and it is focused on Medicaid

1705 program integrity and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse to

1706 save tax dollars.

1707   The AINS incorporates technical assistance we received

1708 from CMS to ensure that states are certifying, at least on a

1709 quarterly basis, that enrollees are not listed on the Social

1710 Security Administration's Death Master File database.

1711   We also included a provision to give states the ability

1712 to check other death records to make sure Medicaid

1713 beneficiaries are not deceased.

1714   We also require immediate disenrollment of

1715 beneficiaries, should they verify the death of Medicaid

1716 enrollees. This repeals the current CMS guidance that forced

1717   states to collect additional information about their

1718   beneficiaries to ensure their records are correct. I

1719   questioned Director Tsai about this unnecessary bureaucracy,

1720   and I am glad we can address it here with this particular

1721   amendment.

1722   Lastly, while I know the Death Master File is a highly

1723   accurate record of information, sometimes mistakes do occur,

1724   and they really do occur, Madam Chair, we have evidence that

1725   they do. The amendment importantly provides a process for

1726   reenrollment, should the information from the database turn

1727   out to be incorrect. We certainly agree that we don't want

1728   to inadvertently disenroll Medicaid patients that are still

1729   alive, and this amendment makes that clarification.

1730   I ask all my colleagues to support my AINS and support

1731   this common-sense proposal by passing, ultimately, H.R. 8084,

1732   as amended.

1733   And I will yield back the balance of my time unless

1734   someone wants it.

1735   *The Chair. The --

1736   *Mr. Bilirakis. I will yield back, Madam Chair. Thank

1737   you so very much.

1738   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. For what

1739 purpose does Ms. Craig seek recognition?

1740   *Ms. Craig. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last

1741 word.

1742   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

1743 minutes.

1744   *Ms. Craig. Thank you so much, Madam Chair. Thank you

1745 for holding today's markup, and for including my bill, the

1746 LIVE Beneficiaries Act.

1747   I also want to thank my colleague, Representative

1748 Bilirakis, for his partnership on this common-sense piece of

1749 legislation.

1750   Gus, it is always a pleasure working with you and your

1751 team.

1752   Our bill would require states to verify, through a

1753 quarterly check with the Social Security Administration's

1754 Death Master File database, that Medicaid recipients are not

1755 deceased, and remove any deceased beneficiaries from their

1756 databases. This simple fix will prevent hundreds of millions

1757 of dollars in improper payments, and make sure that taxpayer

1758 dollars are being spent responsibly.

1759   When I came to Congress I promised that I would work

1760   across the aisle and seek to reform the way government works.

1761   Our bill makes important reforms to the government's

1762   oversight of taxpayer dollars. By tackling this kind of

1763   waste we can make room to fund important priorities like the

1764   home and community-based services that so many Medicaid

1765   beneficiaries rely on.

1766   Thank you again, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

1767   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

1768   further discussion?

1769   If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on

1770   the amendment.

1771   All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

1772   All opposed, nay.

1773   The ayes have it, the amendment is agreed to.

1774   Is there further discussion?

1775   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 8084, as

1776   amendment -- as amended, and the roll call vote has been

1777   requested. The clerk will call the roll.

1778   *The Clerk. Burgess?

1779   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1780   *The Clerk.   Burgess votes aye.

1781   Latta?

1782   *Mr. Latta.   Aye.

1783   *The Clerk.   Latta votes aye.

1784   Guthrie?

1785   *Mr. Guthrie.   Aye.

1786   *The Clerk.   Guthrie votes aye.

1787   Griffith?

1788   *Mr. Griffith.   Aye.

1789   *The Clerk.   Griffith votes aye.

1790   Bilirakis?

1791   *Mr. Bilirakis.   Aye.

1792   *The Clerk.   Bilirakis votes aye.

1793   Bucshon?

1794   [No response.]

1795   *The Clerk.   Hudson?

1796   [No response.]

1797   *The Clerk.   Walberg?

1798   *Mr. Walberg.   Aye.

1799   *The Clerk.   Walberg votes aye.

1800   Carter?

1801   [No response.]

1802   *The Clerk. Duncan?

1803   *Mr. Duncan. Yes.

1804   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

1805   Palmer?

1806   [No response.]

1807   *The Clerk. Dunn?

1808   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

1809   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

1810   Curtis?

1811   [No response.]

1812   *The Clerk. Lesko?

1813   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

1814   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

1815   Pence?

1816   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1817   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

1818   Crenshaw?

1819   [No response.]

1820   *The Clerk. Joyce?

1821   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

1822   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

1823   Armstrong?

1824   [No response.]

1825   *The Clerk. Weber?

1826   *Mr. Weber. I certainly do.

1827   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

1828   Allen?

1829   *Mr. Allen. Aye.

1830   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

1831   Balderson?

1832   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

1833   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

1834   Fulcher?

1835   [No response.]

1836   *The Clerk. Pfluger?

1837   [No response.]

1838   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

1839   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

1840   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

1841   Miller-Meeks?

1842   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.

1843   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

1844   Cammack?

1845   *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

1846   *The Clerk. Cammack votes aye.

1847   Obernolte?

1848   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

1849   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

1850   James?

1851   *Mr. James. Aye.

1852   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

1853   Pallone?

1854   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1855   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

1856   Eshoo?

1857   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

1858   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

1859   DeGette?

1860   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

1861   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

1862   Schakowsky?

1863   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

1864   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

1865   Matsui?

1866   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

1867   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

1868   Castor?

1869   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

1870   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

1871   Sarbanes?

1872   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

1873   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

1874   Tonko?

1875   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

1876   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

1877   Clarke?

1878   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

1879   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

1880   Cardenas?

1881   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

1882   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

1883   Ruiz?

1884   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1885   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

1886   Peters?

1887   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

1888   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

1889   Dingell?

1890   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

1891   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

1892   Veasey?

1893   [No response.]

1894   *The Clerk. Kuster?

1895   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

1896   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

1897   Kelly?

1898   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

1899   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

1900   Barragan?

1901   [No response.]

1902   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

1903   [No response.]

1904   *The Clerk. Soto?

1905   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

1906   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

1907   Craig?

1908   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

1909   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

1910   Schrier?

1911   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1912   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

1913   Trahan?

1914   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

1915   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

1916   Fletcher?

1917   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

1918   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

1919   Chair Rodgers?

1920   *The Chair. Aye.

1921   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

1922   *The Chair. Madam clerk, how is Mr. Palmer recorded?

1923   *The Clerk. Mr. Carter is not recorded.

1924   *Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.

1925   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

1926   *The Chair. Mr. Palmer.

1927   *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

1928   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

1929   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

1930   *The Chair. How is Mr. Crenshaw recorded?

1931   *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.

1932   *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.

1933   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

1934   *The Chair. How is Mr. Fulcher recorded?

1935   *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher is not recorded.

1936   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

1937   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

1938   *The Chair. How is Mr. Hudson recorded?

1939   *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson is not recorded.

1940   *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.

1941   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

1942   *Mr. Veasey. Madam Chair, am I recorded?

1943   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, is Mr. Veasey recorded?

1944   *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

1945   *Mr. Veasey. Please record Veasey as aye.

1946   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

1947   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

1948   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 46

1949   ayes and 0 noes.

1950   *The Chair. The ayes have it, the bill is adopted.

1951   The chair calls up H.R. 8089, as amended by the

1952   Subcommittee on Health, and asks the clerk to report.

1953   *The Clerk. H.R. 8089, a bill to amend title 19 of the

1954   Social Security Act to require certain additional provider

1955   screening under the Medicaid program.

1956   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

1957   bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment

1958   at any point.

1959   So ordered.

1960   [The bill follows:]

1961

1962   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

1963

1964   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

1965   bill?

1966   For what purpose does Mr. Peters seek recognition?

1967   *Mr. Peters. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last

1968   word.

1969   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

1970   minutes.

1971   *Mr. Peters. Thank you. In fiscal year 2023 the

1972   Department of Health and Human Services estimated a combined

1973   total of over $100 billion in improper payments in Medicare

1974   and Medicaid. In April Comptroller General Eugene Dodaro

1975   testified before this committee's oversight committee about

1976   how better collaboration between CMS and states in provider

1977   screening and enrollment would help prevent improper

1978   payments. After the hearing my colleague, Congressman

1979   Garcia, and I introduced the Medicare and Medicaid Fraud

1980   Prevention Act, which will give states better access to

1981   Social Security's Death Master File so they can confirm

1982   doctors are not dead before being automatically reenrolled.

1983   The legislation before us is non-controversial, has

1984   bipartisan support. It is not going to stop improper

1985 payments overnight, but it is a small step in the right

1986 direction. I urge my colleagues to support it.

1987   And I yield back.

1988   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

1989 further discussion?

1990   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 8089, as

1991 amended, and the roll call vote has been requested. The

1992 clerk will call the roll.

1993   *The Clerk. Burgess?

1994   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1995   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1996   Latta?

1997   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1998   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

1999   Guthrie?

2000   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2001   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

2002   Griffith?

2003   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2004   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

2005   Bilirakis?

2006   *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

2007   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

2008   Bucshon?

2009   [No response.]

2010   *The Clerk. Hudson?

2011   [No response.]

2012   *The Clerk. Walberg?

2013   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

2014   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

2015   Carter?

2016   [No response.]

2017   *The Clerk. Duncan?

2018   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

2019   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

2020   Palmer?

2021   [No response.]

2022   *The Clerk. Dunn?

2023   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

2024   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

2025   Curtis?

2026   [No response.]

2027   *The Clerk. Lesko?

2028   [No response.]

2029   *The Clerk. Pence?

2030   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

2031   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

2032   Crenshaw?

2033   *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

2034   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

2035   Joyce?

2036   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

2037   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

2038   Armstrong?

2039   [No response.]

2040   *The Clerk. Weber?

2041   *Mr. Weber. Yes.

2042   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

2043   Allen?

2044   [No response.]

2045   *The Clerk. Balderson?

2046   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

2047   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

2048   Fulcher?

2049   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

2050   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

2051   Pfluger?

2052   [No response.]

2053   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

2054   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

2055   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

2056   Miller-Meeks?

2057   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

2058   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

2059   Cammack?

2060   [No response.]

2061   *The Clerk. Obernolte?

2062   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

2063   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

2064   James?

2065   *Mr. James. Aye.

2066   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

2067   Pallone?

2068   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2069   *The Clerk.   Pallone votes aye.

2070   Eshoo?

2071   *Ms. Eshoo.   Aye.

2072   *The Clerk.   Eshoo votes aye.

2073   DeGette?

2074   *Ms. DeGette.   Aye.

2075   *The Clerk.   DeGette votes aye.

2076   Schakowsky?

2077   *Ms. Schakowsky.   Aye.

2078   *The Clerk.   Schakowsky votes aye.

2079   Matsui?

2080   *Ms. Matsui.   Aye.

2081   *The Clerk.   Matsui votes aye.

2082   Castor?

2083   *Ms. Castor.   Aye.

2084   *The Clerk.   Castor votes aye.

2085   Sarbanes?

2086   *Mr. Sarbanes.   Aye.

2087   *The Clerk.   Sarbanes votes aye.

2088   Tonko?

2089   *Mr. Tonko.   Aye.

2090   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

2091   Clarke?

2092   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

2093   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

2094   Cardenas?

2095   [No response.]

2096   *The Clerk. Cardenas?

2097   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

2098   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

2099   Ruiz?

2100   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

2101   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

2102   Peters?

2103   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

2104   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

2105   Dingell?

2106   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

2107   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

2108   Veasey?

2109   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

2110   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

2111   Kuster?

2112   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

2113   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

2114   Kelly?

2115   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

2116   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

2117   Barragan?

2118   [No response.]

2119   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

2120   [No response.]

2121   *The Clerk. Soto?

2122   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2123   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

2124   Craig?

2125   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

2126   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

2127   Schrier?

2128   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2129   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

2130   Trahan?

2131   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2132   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

2133   Fletcher?

2134   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2135   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

2136   Chair Rodgers?

2137   *The Chair. Aye.

2138   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

2139   *Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.

2140   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

2141   *Mr. Bucshon. Bucshon votes aye.

2142   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2143   *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.

2144   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

2145   *Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.

2146   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

2147   *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

2148   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

2149   *Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.

2150   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

2151   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

2152   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 45

2153   ayes and 0 noes.

2154   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

2155   The chair calls up H.R. 8111, and asks the clerk to

2156   report.

2157   *The Clerk. H.R. 8111, a bill to amend title 19 of the

2158   Social Security Act to ensure the reliability of address

2159   information provided under the Medicaid program.

2160   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

2161   bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment

2162   at any point.

2163   So ordered.

2164   [The bill follows:]

2165

2166   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

2167

2168   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

2169   bill?

2170   *The Chair. If there is no further discussion -- oh,

2171   for what purpose does Mrs. Miller-Meeks seek recognition?

2172   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Madam Chair, I move to strike the

2173   last word.

2174   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

2175   minutes.

2176   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. My legislation, H.R. 8111, the

2177   Medicaid Program Improvement Act, co-led by Congressman

2178   Cartwright, would create a process for state Medicaid

2179   programs and managed care organizations to obtain address

2180   information of program beneficiaries to ensure they are not

2181   enrolled in multiple Medicaid programs.

2182   This simple, good-governance legislation would maintain

2183   program integrity and help control unnecessary costs to

2184   states and the Federal Government, without restricting access

2185   to those who legitimately qualify for Medicaid.

2186   I thank the committee for moving the bill, and urge my

2187   colleagues to vote yes on the AINS and the underlying

2188   legislation.

2189   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back the balance of

2190   my time.

2191   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Does the

2192   gentlelady, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, have an amendment?

2193   [Pause.]

2194   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I have an amendment at the desk.

2195   *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

2196   *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

2197   H.R. 8111, offered by Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Strike all after

2198   the enacting clause, and insert the following. Section 1,

2199   short title. This Act may be cited as the Medicaid Program

2200   Improvement Act. Section 2, ensuring the reliability of

2201   address information provided under the Medicaid program.

2202   *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

2203   amendment is dispensed with.

2204   [The amendment of Mrs. Miller-Meeks follows:]

2205

2206   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

2207

2208   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

2209   minutes in support of her amendment.

2210   [Pause.]

2211   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I just urge a yes vote on the AINS

2212   and the underlying bill.

2213   *The Chair. If there is no further discussion, the vote

2214   occurs on the amendment.

2215   All those in favor, say aye.

2216   Those opposed, nay.

2217   The ayes have it, the amendment is agreed to.

2218   Is there further discussion?

2219   Seeing none, the question now occurs on approving -- oh,

2220   question occurs on the AINS, right? Was it an AINS?

2221   *Voice. We did that by voice vote. Now it is final

2222   passage.

2223   *The Chair. Okay, thank you.

2224   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 8111, as

2225   amended. A roll call vote has been requested. The clerk

2226   will call the roll.

2227   *The Clerk. Burgess?

2228   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

2229   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2230   Latta?

2231   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2232   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2233   Guthrie?

2234   [No response.]

2235   *The Clerk. Griffith?

2236   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2237   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

2238   Bilirakis?

2239   [No response.]

2240   *The Clerk. Bucshon?

2241   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

2242   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2243   Hudson?

2244   [No response.]

2245   *The Clerk. Walberg?

2246   [No response.]

2247   *The Clerk. Carter?

2248   [No response.]

2249   *The Clerk. Duncan?

2250   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

2251   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

2252   Palmer?

2253   [No response.]

2254   *The Clerk. Dunn?

2255   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

2256   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

2257   Curtis?

2258   [No response.]

2259   *The Clerk. Lesko?

2260   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

2261   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

2262   Pence?

2263   [No response.]

2264   *The Clerk. Crenshaw?

2265   *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

2266   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

2267   Joyce?

2268   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

2269   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

2270   Armstrong?

2271   [No response.]

2272   *The Clerk. Weber?

2273   *Mr. Weber. Yes, ma'am.

2274   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

2275   Allen?

2276   [No response.]

2277   *The Clerk. Balderson?

2278   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

2279   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

2280   Fulcher?

2281   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

2282   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

2283   Pfluger?

2284   [No response.]

2285   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

2286   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

2287   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

2288   Miller-Meeks?

2289   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

2290   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

2291   Cammack?

2292   [No response.]

2293   *The Clerk. Obernolte?

2294   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

2295   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

2296   James?

2297   *Mr. James. Aye.

2298   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

2299   Pallone?

2300   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2301   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2302   Eshoo?

2303   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

2304   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

2305   DeGette?

2306   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

2307   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

2308   Schakowsky?

2309   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

2310   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

2311   Matsui?

2312   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

2313   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

2314   Castor?

2315   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2316   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

2317   Sarbanes?

2318   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

2319   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

2320   Tonko?

2321   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

2322   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

2323   Clarke?

2324   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

2325   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

2326   Cardenas?

2327   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

2328   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

2329   Ruiz?

2330   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

2331   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

2332   Peters?

2333   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

2334   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

2335   Dingell?

2336   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

2337   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

2338   Veasey?

2339   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

2340   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

2341   Kuster?

2342   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

2343   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

2344   Kelly?

2345   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

2346   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

2347   Barragan?

2348   [No response.]

2349   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

2350   [No response.]

2351   *The Clerk. Soto?

2352   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2353   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

2354   Craig?

2355   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

2356   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

2357   Schrier?

2358   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2359   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

2360   Trahan?

2361   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2362   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

2363   Fletcher?

2364   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2365   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

2366   Chair Rodgers?

2367   *The Chair. Aye.

2368   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

2369   *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

2370   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

2371   *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.

2372   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

2373   *Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.

2374   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

2375   *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.

2376   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

2377   *Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.

2378   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

2379   *Mr. Allen. Allen votes aye.

2380   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

2381   *Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

2382   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

2383   *Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie votes aye.

2384   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

2385   *Voice. Can you ask her to call the roll of the folks

2386 who --

2387   *The Chair. You are the good students.

2388   *Mr. Pallone. What do you mean?

2389   *The Chair. You are all here in your chairs, voting.

2390   *Voice. Can you ask her to call the roll of the folks

2391 who have not voted? I want to make sure we are not missing

2392 anyone. There were a bunch of people rattling off.

2393   *The Chair. Okay. Madam Clerk, would you call the

2394 names of those members who have not been recorded on this

2395 vote, please?

2396   *The Clerk. Representative Lesko?

2397   [No response.]

2398   *The Clerk. Armstrong?

2399   [No response.]

2400   *The Clerk. Pfluger?

2401   [No response.]

2402   *The Clerk. Cammack?

2403   [No response.]

2404   *The Clerk. Barragan?

2405   [No response.]

2406   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

2407   [No response.]

2408   *The Chair. Did Lesko come back?

2409   Can we go get her?

2410   *The Clerk. Curtis?

2411   [No response.]

2412   *Mrs. Lesko. Lesko is a yes.

2413   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

2414   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

2415   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 46

2416   ayes and 0 noes.

2417   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

2418   The chair calls up H.R. 8112, as amended by the

2419   Subcommittee on Health, and asks the clerk to report.

2420   *The Clerk. H.R. 8112, a bill to amend title 19 of the

2421   Social Security Act to further require certain additional

2422   provider screening under the Medicaid program.

2423   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

2424   bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

2425   amendment at any point.

2426   So ordered.

2427   [The bill follows:]

2428

2429   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

2430

2431   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on this

2432   bill?

2433   *Mr. Guthrie. Amendment, I have an amendment.

2434   *The Chair. I am sorry, who was that?

2435   *Mr. Guthrie. I have an amendment.

2436   *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

2437   *The Clerk. Amendment to committee print of H.R. 8112,

2438   offered by Mr. Guthrie. Page and line numbers refer to the

2439   committee --

2440   *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

2441   amendment is dispensed with.

2442   [The amendment of Mr. Guthrie follows:]

2443

2444   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

2445

2446   *The Chair.   The gentleman is recognized for five

2447   minutes in support of his amendment.

2448   *Mr. Guthrie.   Thank you, Madam Chair.   H.R. 8112 is

2449   simple: we do not let -- we should not let bad doctors in

2450   the Medicaid program.

2451   One way that we try to maintain the integrity of the

2452   program is by entering doctors into the Data EXchange, or

2453   DEX, which is a database managed by CMS that monitors doctors

2454   who have been terminated from the Medicare and Medicaid

2455   program.

2456   To be clear, doctors are not removed casually from

2457   either program.   You have to commit fraud or harm patients in

2458   order to be terminated from the programs.   The issue here is

2459   that states are not always actively checking the DEX.   If a

2460   doctor breaks the law in Ohio or Tennessee and is removed

2461   from the state's Medicaid program, the doctor will be entered

2462   into the DEX.   However, if my home state of Kentucky isn't

2463   checking the DEX, we may inadvertently let the doctor

2464   practice in our state.

2465   The amendment today incorporates technical assistance

2466   from CMS that would require monthly screenings for the DEX,

2467 rather than the initially-proposed quarterly screenings, to

2468 ensure they are diligent in protecting the Medicaid program.

2469 This bill is straightforward, and I hope we will all agree

2470 that keeping bad doctors out of Medicaid is in everyone's

2471 best interest.

2472   Thanks, everybody, for all the work on this bill.

2473   And I will yield back.

2474   *The Chair. Is there further discussion?

2475   Seeing none, the vote occurs on the amendment.

2476   All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

2477   Those opposed, nay.

2478   The ayes have it, the amendment is agreed to.

2479   Is there further discussion?

2480   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 8112, as

2481 amended. A roll call vote has been requested. The clerk

2482 will call the roll.

2483   *The Clerk. Burgess?

2484   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

2485   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2486   Latta?

2487   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2488   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2489   Guthrie?

2490   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2491   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

2492   Griffith?

2493   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2494   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

2495   Bilirakis?

2496   [No response.]

2497   *The Clerk. Bucshon?

2498   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

2499   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2500   Hudson?

2501   [No response.]

2502   *The Clerk. Walberg?

2503   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

2504   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

2505   Carter?

2506   [No response.]

2507   *The Clerk. Duncan?

2508   *Mr. Duncan. Yes.

2509   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

2510   Palmer?

2511   [No response.]

2512   *The Clerk. Dunn?

2513   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

2514   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

2515   Curtis?

2516   [No response.]

2517   *The Clerk. Lesko?

2518   [No response.]

2519   *The Clerk. Pence?

2520   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

2521   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

2522   Crenshaw?

2523   *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

2524   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

2525   Joyce?

2526   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

2527   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

2528   Armstrong?

2529   [No response.]

2530   *The Clerk. Weber?

2531   [No response.]

2532   *The Clerk. Allen?

2533   [No response.]

2534   *The Clerk. Balderson?

2535   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

2536   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

2537   Fulcher?

2538   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

2539   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

2540   Pfluger?

2541   [No response.]

2542   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

2543   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

2544   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

2545   Miller-Meeks?

2546   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

2547   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

2548   Cammack?

2549   [No response.]

2550   *The Clerk. Obernolte?

2551   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

2552   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

2553   James?

2554   *Mr. James. Aye.

2555   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

2556   Pallone?

2557   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2558   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2559   Eshoo?

2560   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

2561   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

2562   DeGette?

2563   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

2564   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

2565   Schakowsky?

2566   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

2567   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

2568   Matsui?

2569   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

2570   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

2571   Castor?

2572   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2573   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

2574   Sarbanes?

2575   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

2576   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

2577   Tonko?

2578   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

2579   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

2580   Clarke?

2581   *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

2582   *The Clerk. Clarke votes aye.

2583   Cardenas?

2584   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

2585   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

2586   Ruiz?

2587   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

2588   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

2589   Peters?

2590   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

2591   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

2592   Dingell?

2593   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

2594   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

2595   Veasey?

2596   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

2597   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

2598   Kuster?

2599   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

2600   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

2601   Kelly?

2602   [No response.]

2603   *The Clerk. Barragan?

2604   [No response.]

2605   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

2606   [No response.]

2607   *The Clerk. Soto?

2608   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2609   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

2610   Craig?

2611   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

2612   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

2613   Schrier?

2614   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2615   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

2616   Trahan?

2617   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2618   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

2619   Fletcher?

2620   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2621   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

2622   Chair Rodgers?

2623   *The Chair. Aye.

2624   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

2625   *Mrs. Lesko. Lesko votes aye.

2626   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

2627   *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes aye.

2628   *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

2629   *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.

2630   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

2631   *Mr. Carter. Carter votes aye.

2632   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

2633   *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

2634   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

2635   *Mr. Weber. Weber votes aye.

2636   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

2637   [Pause.]

2638   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

2639   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 45

2640 ayes and 0 noes.

2641   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

2642   The chair calls up H.R. 4758, and asks the clerk to

2643 report.

2644   *The Clerk. H.R. 4758, a bill to amend title 19 of the

2645 Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the

2646 Medicaid program of certain providers --

2647   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

2648 bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment

2649 at any point.

2650   So ordered.

2651   [The bill follows:]

2652

2653 **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

2654

2655   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

2656 bill?

2657   *Mr. Pallone. Trahan.

2658   *Mrs. Trahan. I have an amendment at --

2659   *The Chair. For what purpose does Mrs. Trahan seek

2660 recognition?

2661   *Mrs. Trahan. I have an amendment at the desk.

2662   *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

2663   *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

2664 H.R. 4758. Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert

2665 the following --

2666   *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

2667 amendment is dispensed with.

2668   [The amendment of Mrs. Trahan follows:]

2669

2670 **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

2671

2672   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

2673   minutes in support of her amendment.

2674   *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you, Madam Chair. My amendment

2675   makes technical adjustments to this bipartisan bill which I

2676   introduced alongside Congresswoman Miller-Meeks.

2677   When necessary, clinical care is determined for a child

2678   by medical professionals, there should be no reason that

2679   administrative burdens get in the way. The Accelerating

2680   Kids' Access to Care Act is designed to cut through red tape

2681   and get kids the appropriate care and often lifesaving care

2682   that they need.

2683   To express the importance of getting this legislation

2684   over the finish line, I would like to highlight a story from

2685   a patient who was negatively impacted by the burdensome and

2686   time-consuming Medicaid provider screening and enrollment

2687   process. Almost three years ago, a baby -- and I will call

2688   her Lily -- was born in a rural state with her esophagus in

2689   two separate segments and connected abnormally to the

2690   windpipe. Because this condition requires a particularly

2691   complicated procedure to correct it, doctors explained to the

2692   family there are only two places in the country where it

2693   could be done. One of them was Boston Children's Hospital in

2694   my home state of Massachusetts.

2695   Immediately, Lily and her parents were ready to travel

2696   to Boston, where the surgeons were standing by to perform the

2697   lifesaving operation. But instead, Lily, who was a Medicaid

2698   recipient, was waiting for her home state to enroll the eight

2699   providers at Boston Children's who needed to perform this

2700   complex surgery. Her state, confused about the rules

2701   concerning out-of-state provider enrollment, wouldn't

2702   authorize the services provided by Boston Children's.

2703   Lily's surgery was rescheduled more than three times,

2704   and delayed over seven months. As Lily waited, she lived

2705   with a floppy airwave -- airway, excuse me -- that could have

2706   collapsed at any moment, a weakened immune system, and

2707   routine breathing difficulties. This situation was not just

2708   a delay in paperwork. It was a delay that put a child's life

2709   at significant risk. Every day that passed was a day where

2710   her condition could have taken a fatal turn.

2711   And Lily's story is one of many across our country.

2712   That is why it is crucial for us to pass the Accelerating

2713   Kids' Access to Care Act. The stakes are simply too high to

2714 allow bureaucratic hurdles to stand in the way of urgent

2715 medical care for our most vulnerable children. When care is

2716 delayed for kids with complex medical hurdles -- excuse me,

2717 issues -- who need to cross over state lines, the

2718 consequences are severe and far reaching. Delays in

2719 accessing appropriate care can lead to increased mortality

2720 rates and worsened health outcomes for pediatric patients.

2721   Additionally, families face significant financial and

2722 psychological strain when care is delayed. These delays also

2723 contribute to increased use of emergency services and high

2724 overall health care costs.

2725   I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman Miller-

2726 Meeks, for working with me on this important legislation, and

2727 I strongly urge my colleagues on this committee to support

2728 the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act today so that we

2729 can ensure that no child on Medicaid has to endure

2730 unnecessary delays in receiving critical medical care across

2731 state lines.

2732   Thank you, Madam Chair, I yield back.

2733   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. For what

2734 purpose does Mr. Carter seek recognition?

2735   *Mr. Carter. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last

2736 word.

2737   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

2738 minutes.

2739   *Mr. Carter. Madam Chair, I would like to express my

2740 support for the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act, which

2741 will help families access lifesaving care for children with

2742 complex medical conditions.

2743   In Georgia we are blessed to have world-class children's

2744 hospitals that care for kids across the country. However, in

2745 some cases, patients with rare and complex diseases have to

2746 travel out of state to receive specialized care when the

2747 services they need are not available in their own state. The

2748 process is difficult, and it is full of red tape, often

2749 delaying children and their families from receiving the care

2750 they desperately need and, in some cases, blocking access to

2751 care altogether.

2752   The Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act will allow

2753 states to streamline the process for out-of-state pediatric

2754 care providers to enroll in another state's Medicaid program,

2755 while also providing important guardrails. This is common-

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2756 sense policy that will help children with complex medical

2757 conditions access critical care.

2758   I am also pleased to see the bipartisan amendment

2759 include crucial pharmacy benefit manager reforms from my Drug

2760 Price Transparency and Medicaid Act. This provision would

2761 prohibit spread pricing in Medicaid, and clarify that states

2762 should reimburse PBMs contracting with Medicaid-managed care

2763 organizations for an administrative fee for managing the

2764 pharmacy benefit for Medicaid beneficiaries. This will save

2765 taxpayers roughly $300 million, and will protect patients,

2766 pharmacies, and others from middleman tactics that drive up

2767 prescription drug costs.

2768   I commend Dr. Miller-Meeks and Representative Trahan for

2769 working on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support

2770 the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act.

2771   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

2772   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

2773 further discussion?

2774   For what purpose does Ms. Eshoo seek recognition?

2775   *Ms. Eshoo. I move to strike the last word, Madam

2776 Chairwoman.

2777   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

2778 minutes.

2779   *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you. I rise to speak in support of

2780 this bill, and I want to thank Representatives Trahan and

2781 Miller-Meeks for leading on this important effort to ensure

2782 children in need of lifesaving care can receive it.

2783   Today, when a child with cancer, a rare disease, or

2784 much-needed surgery needs to travel to another state to

2785 receive treatment, the physician and sometimes the entire

2786 health care team treating the child must be screened and

2787 enrolled in the child's home state Medicaid program. This is

2788 a highly -- as other members have stated, this is a highly

2789 burdensome process. It is filled with red tape for

2790 physicians, and it delays the lifesaving care for children

2791 who really can't afford to wait. I have seen this happen

2792 over and over again because I have the Lucile Packard

2793 Children's Hospital in the heart of my district.

2794   This legislation fixes exactly what the title of the

2795 bill says by creating a voluntary and streamlined process to

2796 allow physicians to enroll in another state's Medicaid

2797 program.

2798   So I fully support this effort. I thank the members

2799   that are leading it. And I think it deserves a unanimous

2800   vote so it can become law this year.

2801   And with that, Madam Chairwoman, I yield back.

2802   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. For what

2803   purpose does Mr. Hudson seek recognition?

2804   *Mr. Hudson. To speak on the bill.

2805   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

2806   minutes.

2807   *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. I am so glad to see this bill

2808   come forth. It directly impacts thousands of children and

2809   their access to needed out-of-state care.

2810   I want to put a face on this, though. I want to tell

2811   you a story of a two-year-old boy named Gabe from Texas. He

2812   was finally medically stable enough to make the waitlist for

2813   a thymus transplant at Duke Children's Hospital and Health

2814   Center just outside my district. The surgeons at Duke are

2815   some of the only people in the country that can provide this

2816   surgery. Yet Texas Medicaid decided it wasn't medically

2817   necessary for him to have this transplant.

2818   I can't imagine the anger, the frustration, the stress I

2819 would feel as a father in that situation. Gabe had to fight

2820 for his life every day because his family can't receive a

2821 timely approval like others who have private insurance. The

2822 life expectancy of the form of DiGeorge syndrome he has is

2823 typically two or three years.

2824   When Gabe was four, they found another path with Duke

2825 coordinators transporting them up to North Carolina again,

2826 only to have to turn around and go back to Texas because of

2827 technical tax codes changing.

2828   After years of disappointments, months in the hospital,

2829 the hardships Gabe's parents and siblings had to face, and

2830 the sadness of living the opposite of a normal childhood,

2831 Gabe finally got the transplant at Duke that he needed. This

2832 bill will save thousands of kids and families from going

2833 through the same struggles and hurdles that Gabe's family

2834 did.

2835   I look forward to voting in favor of this bill, and with

2836 that I yield back.

2837   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

2838 further discussion?

2839   For what purpose does Ms. Castor seek recognition?

2840   *Ms. Castor. To strike the last word.

2841   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

2842 minutes.

2843   *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to thank

2844 Representatives Trahan and Miller-Meeks for bringing the

2845 Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act.

2846   This is a very important next step on the bipartisan

2847 work the Energy and Commerce Committee has done over the

2848 years. In 2019 the committee passed the ACE Kids Act. It

2849 was a bill I led with Congressman Bilirakis and

2850 Representative Eshoo and Congresswoman Herrera Beutler.

2851   As you all know, Medicaid is the largest insurer of

2852 children in the United States, especially for children with

2853 complex medical conditions, or cancer, or a rare disease.

2854 And children with complex medical conditions often need

2855 specialized treatment that is not available in their

2856 community or in their state. So the ACE Kids Act created a

2857 new state option under Medicaid that, in conjunction with our

2858 children's hospitals, that would create -- it creates medical

2859 homes in those children's hospitals, and it allows children

2860 to cross state lines to get the care they need.

2861   The goal of that effort was to put kids with complex

2862   medical conditions and their families first by allowing these

2863   states to implement these medical homes through Medicaid that

2864   coordinate care, they lower costs, they save time for

2865   families and providers.

2866   Now the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act is the

2867   important next step that needs to happen to make it easier

2868   for qualified pediatric providers to enroll in multiple

2869   Medicaid programs. The bill is going to make it easier for

2870   families.

2871   I think about the fantastic children's hospitals in the

2872   Sunshine State, two in the Tampa Bay area, Johns Hopkins All

2873   Children's and then Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital.

2874   Sometimes they will have the providers that can serve the

2875   needs of a child in Georgia or in South Carolina. We

2876   shouldn't be so stringent under the Medicaid laws that a

2877   child with a complex medical condition cannot get the care

2878   they need and see the specialists that they need.

2879   Overall, this is going to -- this is a godsend to

2880   families. I am proud to be a cosponsor, and I look forward

2881   to voting yes today. I hope everyone will vote yes. Thank

2882   you.

2883   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. For what

2884   purpose does Mrs. Miller-Meeks seek recognition?

2885   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Madam Chair, I move to strike the

2886   last word and speak in favor of the bill.

2887   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

2888   minutes.

2889   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Madam Chair. I am proud

2890   to lead the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act with my

2891   colleague, Representative Lori Trahan.

2892   This legislation would streamline administrative

2893   processes for providers who need to enroll in another state's

2894   Medicaid program due to a lack of services provided in a

2895   patient's home state.

2896   I was also proud to have a fellow Iowan and constituent

2897   doctor, Alec Bassuk, testify before the committee in February

2898   to support the legislation and highlight the positive impact

2899   it would have on Iowa families.

2900   There is currently no standardized Federal pathway for

2901   this process, meaning that providers must enroll in each

2902   individual state's Medicaid program whenever they see a

2903   patient from that state, and must maintain regular paperwork

2904   to remain enrolled in each state's Medicaid program.   When a

2905   child from a different state is visiting a doctor, as may be

2906   the case if a child from another state travels to Iowa for

2907   care, which -- given that we are less than an hour away from

2908   places in Illinois and Missouri, there are often delays in

2909   care as the providers must sift through weeks of paperwork,

2910   risking the health of children with critical, life-

2911   threatening conditions.

2912   I would also like to thank Congressman Buddy Carter for

2913   advocating for a ban on spread pricing in Medicaid, which

2914   saves the program $300 million, and is the pay-for for this

2915   policy.

2916   Again, I am proud to see this committee move this

2917   critical piece of legislation.   I applaud the committee and

2918   the chair for bringing forth this legislation, and I

2919   encourage my colleagues to vote yes on the AINS and on the

2920   underlying bill.

2921   I yield back the balance --

2922   *Mr. Cardenas.   Will the gentlelady yield?

2923   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks.   Yes.

2924   *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you. I just wanted to point out,

2925   Madam Chairwoman, that this is a fine moment in the

2926   legislation going on in the United States Congress. We have

2927   a newer member on this committee, a Democrat, and another

2928   newer member on this committee, a Republican, working

2929   together. And you heard the examples of the difficulties and

2930   the unfortunate, life-risking situation of not correcting our

2931   system. And this bill will be practical, it will be

2932   responsible, and it is something that is long, long overdue.

2933   What is unfortunate is that this fine piece of

2934   legislation and this cooperation and this coming together to

2935   do the right thing will probably not be on television

2936   tonight. It will probably not make tweets, et cetera, et

2937   cetera. So the American people will probably not even hear

2938   about it or know about it.

2939   And on top of that, we have many bills today that are

2940   going through this committee unanimously, with every

2941   Republican and Democrat speaking positively about the

2942   cooperation with each other and the work that the staff and

2943   all of us have been doing -- for many, many years, in some

2944   cases -- to finally culminate in good, positive legislation

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2945   for the American people.

2946   So I just wanted to point out this fine, fine moment of

2947   this incredible committee, and these incredible members who

2948   have come together to do the right thing. So I want -- and

2949   also one more thing that I want to point out.

2950   Yes, it is not lost on me that the two leads on this are

2951   both women.

2952   Thank you very much, and I yield back.

2953   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Representative --

2954   *Mr. Carter. Will the gentlelady yield?

2955   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I yield back -- I guess I will

2956   yield --

2957   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back --

2958   *Mr. Carter. Madam Chair, I would like to associate

2959   myself with the remarks of Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, and I

2960   yield back.

2961   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Representative Carter.

2962   I yield back the balance of my time.

2963   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

2964   further discussion?

2965   [Pause.]

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2966   *The Chair. Okay, if there is no further discussion,

2967   the vote occurs on the Trahan AINS amendment.

2968   All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

2969   All those opposed, nay.

2970   The ayes have it, the amendment is agreed to.

2971   The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 4758, as

2972   amended, and a roll call vote has been requested. The clerk

2973   will call the --

2974   *The Clerk. Burgess?

2975   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

2976   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2977   Latta?

2978   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2979   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2980   Guthrie?

2981   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2982   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

2983   Griffith?

2984   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2985   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

2986   Bilirakis?

2987   [No response.]

2988   *The Clerk. Bucshon?

2989   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

2990   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2991   Hudson?

2992   *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

2993   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

2994   Walberg?

2995   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

2996   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

2997   Carter?

2998   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

2999   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

3000   Duncan?

3001   [No response.]

3002   *The Clerk. Palmer?

3003   [No response.]

3004   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

3005   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

3006   Dunn?

3007   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

3008   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

3009   Curtis?

3010   [No response.]

3011   *The Clerk. Lesko?

3012   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

3013   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

3014   Pence?

3015   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

3016   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

3017   Crenshaw?

3018   *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

3019   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

3020   Joyce?

3021   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

3022   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

3023   Armstrong?

3024   [No response.]

3025   *The Clerk. Weber?

3026   *Mr. Weber. Yes.

3027   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

3028   Allen?

3029   [No response.]

3030   *The Clerk. Balderson?

3031   [No response.]

3032   *The Clerk. Fulcher?

3033   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

3034   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

3035   Pfluger?

3036   [No response.]

3037   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

3038   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

3039   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

3040   Miller-Meeks?

3041   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

3042   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

3043   Cammack?

3044   [No response.]

3045   *The Clerk. Obernolte?

3046   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

3047   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

3048   James?

3049   *Mr. James. Aye.

3050   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

3051   Pallone?

3052   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3053   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

3054   Eshoo?

3055   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

3056   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

3057   DeGette?

3058   *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

3059   *The Clerk. DeGette votes aye.

3060   Schakowsky?

3061   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3062   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

3063   Matsui?

3064   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3065   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

3066   Castor?

3067   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3068   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

3069   Sarbanes?

3070   *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

3071   *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

3072   Tonko?

3073   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

3074   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

3075   Clarke?

3076   [No response.]

3077   *The Clerk. Cardenas?

3078   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

3079   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

3080   Ruiz?

3081   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3082   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

3083   Peters?

3084   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

3085   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

3086   Dingell?

3087   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

3088   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

3089   Veasey?

3090   [No response.]

3091   *The Clerk. Kuster?

3092   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

3093   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

3094   Kelly?

3095   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

3096   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

3097   Barragan?

3098   [No response.]

3099   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

3100   [No response.]

3101   *The Clerk. Soto?

3102   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

3103   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

3104   Craig?

3105   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

3106   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

3107   Schrier?

3108   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

3109   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

3110   Trahan?

3111   *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

3112   *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

3113   Fletcher?

3114   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

3115   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

3116   Chair Rodgers?

3117   *The Chair. Aye.

3118   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

3119   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Palmer recorded?

3120   *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

3121   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

3122   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

3123   *Mr. Allen. Allen votes aye.

3124   *The Chair. How is Mr. Allen recorded?

3125   *Mr. Allen. Allen votes aye.

3126   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

3127   *The Chair. How is Mr. Balderson recorded?

3128   *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson is not recorded.

3129   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

3130   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

3131   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

3132   [Pause.]

3133   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there are 42

3134   ayes and 0 noes.

3135   *The Chair. The ayes have it, the resolution is

3136   adopted. The chair calls up H.R. 5526, and asks the clerk to

3137   report.

3138   *The Clerk. H.R. 5526, a bill to amend title 17 of the

3139   Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-

3140   office ancillary services exception to the physician self-

3141   referral --

3142   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

3143   bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open for amendment

3144   at any point.

3145   So ordered.

3146

3147   [The bill follows:]

3148

3149   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

3150

3151   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

3152 bill?

3153   For what purpose does Ms. Schakowsky seek recognition?

3154   *Ms. Schakowsky. I seek to strike the last word.

3155   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

3156 minutes.

3157   *Ms. Schakowsky. In favor of this piece of legislation,

3158 yes.

3159   I want to thank Representative Harshbarger and

3160 Representative Wasserman Schultz for what is a really simple

3161 piece of legislation that solves a problem that can be very

3162 dangerous, particularly to our seniors and people with

3163 disabilities.

3164   You know, when a prescription is at the drugstore but

3165 you happen to be a senior that doesn't have transportation,

3166 or you are very ill and you can't get to the pharmacy or

3167 wherever you can pick up your prescription in a timely way,

3168 which can be so very, very important -- and that is what it

3169 is right now, you have to show up. But this legislation says

3170 that a family member will be able to pick up that

3171 prescription, or a caregiver will be able to have the right

3172   to pick up that prescription for the person that needs it.

3173   And so I think this is such a sensible change that can

3174   make a real difference in people's lives, and so I urge all

3175   my colleagues to support this bill.

3176   And I yield back.

3177   *The Chair.   The gentlelady yields back.   Is there

3178   further discussion?

3179   For what purpose does Mr. Hudson seek recognition?

3180   *Mr. Hudson.   To speak on the underlying bill.

3181   *The Chair.   The gentleman is recognized for five

3182   minutes.

3183   *Mr. Hudson.   Thank you.

3184   I first want to say I appreciate the ongoing efforts and

3185   commitment to preserving seniors' access to medications.   In

3186   rural districts like mine this makes a world of difference

3187   for patients.   I represent a district in North Carolina,

3188   where some folks will drive hours to see their providers, and

3189   then another distance to pick up their medications.   For

3190   years we have allowed beneficiaries to retrieve certain

3191   medications for their loved ones, and then CMS issued FAQs

3192   that deliberately limit access to potentially lifesaving

3193 medications.

3194 I am glad that we have been joined by so many in this

3195 room over the years to push for better and easier access to

3196 critical medications for our loved ones, and I am glad to see

3197 this bill moving forward, and I look forward to voting for

3198 it.

3199 Thank you, and I would like to yield to my colleague,

3200 Mr. Carter.

3201 *Mr. Carter. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

3202 As a pharmacist, I know firsthand the importance of

3203 cancer patients getting their medications in a timely manner

3204 without any obstacles. Oncology practices should easily be

3205 able to deliver the medications they dispense, or have a

3206 family member pick up the medications for them. However, CMS

3207 is suggesting that patients should rely on PBM mail service

3208 to get their medications. This is a non-starter, because

3209 there will be delays and denials.

3210 We need to pass this simple solution that is in H.R.

3211 5526, the Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act, for

3212 the sake of Medicare seniors and those disabled. That is why

3213 I applaud Representative Harshbarger for introducing this

3214 bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

3215   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

3216   *Mr. Hudson. I yield back.

3217   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

3218 further discussion?

3219   For what purpose does Ms. Eshoo seek recognition?

3220   *Ms. Eshoo. To strike the last word, Madam Chairwoman,

3221 and speak in support of the bill.

3222   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

3223 minutes.

3224   *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you.

3225   Today we are voting on legislation to extend a common-

3226 sense policy established during the COVID pandemic to extend

3227 what was established during the pandemic that made it easier

3228 for patients, cancer patients, to get their drugs mailed

3229 directly to them by their oncologists. The flexibility

3230 limited cancer patients' potential exposure to COVID, it kept

3231 them safe and healthy while it ensured that they could

3232 continue to receive treatment from their oncologists. It

3233 also offered cancer patients peace of mind, knowing they

3234 didn't have to worry about whether they would be too sick to

3235   drive to their oncologist to pick up their drugs.

3236   After an oncology practice opens an on-site pharmacy,

3237   studies have found patients starting their treatments more

3238   quickly after their diagnosis which is, obviously, highly

3239   positive. When anyone has cancer, they can't afford to wait.

3240   That is why I voted in favor of extending this policy during

3241   our Health Subcommittee markup earlier this year.

3242   I am glad that a bipartisan agreement was reached to

3243   reinstate this flexibility for five years, with the

3244   stipulation that oncologists complete one face-to-face visit

3245   with their patients before oncology drugs can be sent to

3246   their homes, and that the oncologist's relationship with the

3247   patient be an ongoing one. This requirement is a common-

3248   sense guardrail to limit the chance of fraud, which I know

3249   colleagues had concerns about.

3250   We should be proud that we are making treatments more

3251   accessible to cancer patients by advancing this proposal

3252   today. Obviously, I urge a unanimous vote on this.

3253   And with that, I yield back, Chairwoman, and thank you.

3254   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

3255   further discussion?

3256   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Madam Chair?

3257   *The Chair. For what purpose does Mrs. Harshbarger seek

3258   recognition?

3259   *Mrs. Harshbarger. I have an amendment at the desk.

3260   *The Chair. The clerk will report the amendment.

3261   *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

3262   H.R. 5526 --

3263   *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the

3264   amendment is dispensed with.

3265   [The amendment of Mrs. Harshbarger follows:]

3266

3267   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

3268

3269   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

3270   minutes in support of her amendment.

3271   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Okay, thank you, Madam Chair, and

3272   thank you to all the members who spoke in support of this

3273   bill.

3274   This amendment represents a bipartisan compromise to the

3275   important legislation that I introduced with Representative

3276   Wasserman Schultz, and which has strong bipartisan cosponsor

3277   support from many members on this committee. I want to thank

3278   Chairs Rodgers, Guthrie, Pallone, and Eshoo for working with

3279   me to advance this consensus clarification of the Medicare

3280   Stark Law.

3281   This would provide continuation of pandemic-era

3282   flexibilities for specialty physicians and other health

3283   providers to be able to deliver oral medications to patients

3284   by mail delivery or courier, or allow a designated caregiver

3285   or family member to pick up these medications for patients.

3286   This is critically important for the well-being of cancer

3287   patients and others with serious diseases who are too sick to

3288   pick up their medications in person, who live in rural areas

3289   distant from their physicians, or who simply do not have

3290   transportation.

3291   The AINS represents a consensus modification to my

3292   originally introduced bill, H.R. 5526. The AINS would extend

3293   these drug delivery and access flexibilities under Medicare

3294   for vulnerable patients for five years, clarifying that this

3295   would not violate the Medicare Stark Law's self-referral

3296   provisions.

3297   The AINS also adds common-sense guardrails for these

3298   flexibilities by requiring, within one year prior, the

3299   Medicare beneficiary must have a face-to-face encounter with

3300   the prescriber, not including a telehealth encounter, and

3301   only if the Medicare beneficiary has an ongoing preexisting

3302   relationship with the provider.

3303   It also adds a requirement that within three years of

3304   enactment HHS will submit a report to Congress on data

3305   resulting from this arrangement, including how many Medicare

3306   beneficiaries received specialty drugs under this

3307   arrangement, any changes in drug expenditures, a description

3308   of which drugs were furnished under this arrangement, and any

3309   impact on the prices for such drugs.

3310   The very minimal cost of these reforms would be fully

3311 paid for and offset by including in the AINS the provisions

3312 of H.R. 5397, which passed unanimously out of our full

3313 committee in December 2023 by a vote of 46 to 0. These

3314 provisions in section three of the AINS would expand access

3315 to home infusion treatments by classifying certain approved

3316 drugs as DME, and ensure that these lifesaving treatments are

3317 covered under Medicare benefits.

3318   And finally, it provides that excess savings be credited

3319 to the Medicare Improvement Act.

3320   So I urge my colleagues to support this AINS's

3321 compromise because we shouldn't be forcing patients,

3322 especially our seniors, to take an arduous journey or have

3323 their access to critical medications threatened.

3324   And with that, Madam Chair, thank you, and I yield back.

3325   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

3326 further discussion?

3327   If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on

3328 the amendment.

3329   All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

3330   All those opposed, nay.

3331   The ayes have it, the amendment is agreed to.

3332   The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 5526, as

3333   amended, and a roll call vote has been requested. The clerk

3334   will call the roll.

3335   *The Clerk. Burgess?

3336   *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

3337   *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

3338   Latta?

3339   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3340   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

3341   Guthrie?

3342   [No response.]

3343   *The Clerk. Griffith?

3344   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3345   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

3346   Bilirakis?

3347   [No response.]

3348   *The Clerk. Bucshon?

3349   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

3350   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

3351   Hudson?

3352   *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3353   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

3354   Walberg?

3355   [No response.]

3356   *The Clerk. Carter?

3357   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

3358   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

3359   Duncan?

3360   *Mr. Duncan. Duncan, aye.

3361   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

3362   Palmer?

3363   [No response.]

3364   *The Clerk. Dunn?

3365   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

3366   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

3367   Curtis?

3368   [No response.]

3369   *The Clerk. Lesko?

3370   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

3371   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

3372   Pence?

3373   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

3374   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

3375   Crenshaw?

3376   [No response.]

3377   *The Clerk. Joyce?

3378   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

3379   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

3380   Armstrong?

3381   [No response.]

3382   *The Clerk. Weber?

3383   *Mr. Weber. Yes.

3384   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

3385   Allen?

3386   *Mr. Allen. Aye.

3387   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

3388   Balderson?

3389   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

3390   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

3391   Fulcher?

3392   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

3393   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

3394   Pfluger?

3395   [No response.]

3396   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

3397   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

3398   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

3399   Miller-Meeks?

3400   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

3401   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

3402   Cammack?

3403   [No response.]

3404   *The Clerk. Obernolte?

3405   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

3406   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

3407   James?

3408   *Mr. James. Aye.

3409   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

3410   Pallone?

3411   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3412   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

3413   Eshoo?

3414   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

3415   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

3416   DeGette?

3417   [No response.]

3418   *The Clerk. Schakowsky?

3419   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3420   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

3421   Matsui?

3422   [No response.]

3423   *The Clerk. Castor?

3424   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3425   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

3426   Sarbanes?

3427   [No response.]

3428   *The Clerk. Tonko?

3429   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

3430   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

3431   Clarke?

3432   [No response.]

3433   *The Clerk. Cardenas?

3434   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

3435   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

3436   Ruiz?

3437   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3438   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

3439   Peters?

3440   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

3441   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

3442   Dingell?

3443   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

3444   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

3445   Veasey?

3446   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

3447   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

3448   Kuster?

3449   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

3450   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

3451   Kelly?

3452   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

3453   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

3454   Barragan?

3455   [No response.]

3456   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

3457   [No response.]

3458   *The Clerk. Soto?

3459   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

3460   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

3461   Craig?

3462   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

3463   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

3464   Schrier?

3465   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

3466   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

3467   Trahan?

3468   [No response.]

3469   *The Clerk. Fletcher?

3470   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

3471   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

3472   Chair Rodgers?

3473   *The Chair. Aye.

3474   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

3475   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Walberg recorded?

3476   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

3477   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

3478   *The Chair. How is Mr. Palmer recorded?

3479   *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

3480   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

3481   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

3482   *The Chair. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

3483   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

3484   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

3485   *The Chair. How is Mr. Crenshaw recorded?

3486   *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.

3487   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

3488   *The Chair. How is Ms. Matsui recorded?

3489   *The Clerk. Matsui is not recorded.

3490   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3491   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

3492   *Ms. Castor. Madam Chair, how is --

3493   *The Chair. How is Ms. Castor recorded?

3494   *The Clerk. Castor is recorded as aye.

3495   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

3496   [Pause.]

3497   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 43

3498 ayes and 0 noes.

3499   *The Chair. The ayes have it, the resolution is

3500   adopted.

3501   The chair calls up H.R. 6033, as amended by the

3502   Subcommittee on Health, and asks the clerk to report.

3503   *The Clerk. H.R. 6033, a bill to require the Secretary

3504   of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to

3505   improve access --

3506   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

3507   bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

3508   amendment at any point.

3509   So ordered.

3510   [The bill follows:]

3511

3512   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

3513

3514   *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

3515 bill?

3516   For what purpose does Mr. Cardenas seek recognition?

3517   *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Madam Chair. I move to

3518 strike the last word.

3519   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

3520 minutes.

3521   *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you very much. I would like to

3522 speak on the SPEAK Act.

3523   I commend the inclusion of H.R. 6033, the Supporting

3524 Patients Education and Knowledge Act, which I am proud to co-

3525 lead with my Representatives Steel and several of my

3526 colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

3527   This legislation empowers patients to make informed

3528 decisions about their health by providing them with vital

3529 resources and support in their preferred language, the

3530 preferred way that they would like to communicate.

3531   Clear communication between patients and providers

3532 improves health outcomes, but also enhances the efficiency of

3533 the health care system, reducing misunderstandings, costly

3534 delays, and potentially life-threatening errors. This

174

3535 legislation is a critical step in addressing these challenges

3536 and improving the health care experience for millions.

3537 I have seen firsthand how language barriers can impact

3538 patient care. For example, I, being the youngest of 11

3539 children, both of my parents raised in Mexico, their English

3540 was very, very limited. So my mother, when she went to the

3541 doctor, would pick one of her 11 children to go with her to

3542 actually interpret for her. Normally, we would be able to

3543 interpret for her at the front desk of the clinic or wherever

3544 she is seeking health care. Then we would be able to walk

3545 down the hall, or what have you, with her and help interpret.

3546 But when she was in the room with the doctor, that is when we

3547 were dismissed to go back to the waiting room. That is not

3548 an effective and efficient way for providing service to

3549 people, especially when it comes to their health care.

3550 In addition to that, my father was so uncomfortable

3551 speaking in English that he never went to the doctor. That

3552 is not a measure of good health care outcomes or good

3553 practice by any means. Of course, this is incumbent upon

3554 people like my father and my mother to try their best to

3555 learn how to communicate in the language of English. But at

3556   the same time, when it comes to health care and when it comes

3557   to effective and efficient health care, we need to make sure

3558   that we try our best to do what we can not only as

3559   legislators, but as a system to make sure that we have the

3560   best communication possible so that men, women, and children

3561   can get the best care possible in the language that they

3562   prefer or need to be communicated with.

3563   Again, all this bill does is direct the Secretary of

3564   Health and Human Services to convene a task force to assess

3565   barriers and develop recommendations to improve access to

3566   health information systems for non-English speakers in our

3567   great country.

3568   So with that I would like to once again ask my

3569   colleagues to please support this legislation. So far we are

3570   11 for 11 on fully aye votes, unanimous decisions in this

3571   committee. Today, hopefully, we will continue with that

3572   record on the last two bills, including this one.

3573   With that, Madam Chair, I yield back.

3574   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. For what

3575   purpose does Mr. Soto seek recognition?

3576   *Mr. Soto. To strike the last word.

3577   *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

3578   minutes.

3579   *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

3580   We know in most health emergencies and treatments that

3581   knowledge is power and time is of the essence. Now, imagine,

3582   like many of my constituents, English is your second

3583   language. Spanish, Creole, Portuguese, Hindu, Urdu, Thai,

3584   Arabic, so many other languages spoken in diverse central

3585   Florida. Many of them are seniors. Some of them are

3586   children, as well. That is why I applaud Representatives

3587   Steel and Gomez for introducing the bipartisan SPEAK Act,

3588   directing the HHS Secretary to convene a task force to assess

3589   barriers and develop recommendations to improve access to

3590   health care for non-English speakers.

3591   There are many potential solutions to these issues, like

3592   interpreters via telehealth, an area we have been working on

3593   quite a bit in this committee, as well as artificial

3594   intelligence and hiring folks who can speak various

3595   languages. It is the right thing to do to save lives. It

3596   also could save money by encouraging access to health care,

3597   and by preventing health conditions from getting worse among

3598 many of these communities.

3599   As a nation of immigrants, this has been a long time

3600 coming, and I applaud the committee for going forward on

3601 this.

3602   Thanks, and I yield back.

3603   *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there

3604 further discussion?

3605   If there is no further discussion, the question now

3606 occurs on approving H.R. 6033, as amended, and a roll call

3607 vote has been requested. The clerk will call the roll.

3608   *The Clerk. Burgess?

3609   [No response.]

3610   *The Clerk. Latta?

3611   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3612   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

3613   Guthrie?

3614   [No response.]

3615   *The Clerk. Griffith?

3616   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3617   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

3618   Bilirakis?

3619   [No response.]

3620   *The Clerk. Bucshon?

3621   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

3622   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

3623   Hudson?

3624   *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3625   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

3626   Walberg?

3627   [No response.]

3628   *The Clerk. Carter?

3629   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

3630   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

3631   Duncan?

3632   *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

3633   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

3634   Palmer?

3635   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

3636   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

3637   Dunn?

3638   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

3639   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

3640   Curtis?

3641   [No response.]

3642   *The Clerk. Lesko?

3643   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

3644   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

3645   Pence?

3646   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

3647   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

3648   Crenshaw?

3649   *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

3650   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

3651   Joyce?

3652   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

3653   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

3654   Armstrong?

3655   [No response.]

3656   *The Clerk. Weber?

3657   [No response.]

3658   *The Clerk. Allen?

3659   *Mr. Allen. Aye.

3660   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

3661   Balderson?

3662   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

3663   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

3664   Fulcher?

3665   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

3666   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

3667   Pfluger?

3668   [No response.]

3669   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

3670   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

3671   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

3672   Miller-Meeks?

3673   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

3674   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

3675   Cammack?

3676   [No response.]

3677   *The Clerk. Obernolte?

3678   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

3679   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

3680   James?

3681   *Mr. James. Aye.

3682   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

3683   Pallone?

3684   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3685   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

3686   Eshoo?

3687   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

3688   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

3689   DeGette?

3690   [No response.]

3691   *The Clerk. Schakowsky?

3692   [No response.]

3693   *The Clerk. Matsui?

3694   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3695   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

3696   Castor?

3697   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3698   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

3699   Sarbanes?

3700   [No response.]

3701   *The Clerk. Tonko?

3702   [No response.]

3703   *The Clerk. Clarke?

3704   [No response.]

3705   *The Clerk. Cardenas?

3706   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

3707   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

3708   Ruiz?

3709   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3710   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

3711   Peters?

3712   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

3713   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

3714   Dingell?

3715   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

3716   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

3717   Veasey?

3718   [No response.]

3719   *The Clerk. Kuster?

3720   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

3721   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

3722   Kelly?

3723   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

3724   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

3725   Barragan?

3726   [No response.]

3727   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

3728   [No response.]

3729   *The Clerk. Soto?

3730   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

3731   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

3732   Craig?

3733   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

3734   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

3735   Schrier?

3736   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

3737   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

3738   Trahan?

3739   [No response.]

3740   *The Clerk. Fletcher?

3741   *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

3742   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

3743   Chair Rodgers?

3744   *The Chair. Aye.

3745   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

3746   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Ms. Schakowsky

3747   recorded?

3748   *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky is not recorded.

3749   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3750   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

3751   *The Chair. How is Mr. Veasey recorded?

3752   *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

3753   *Mr. Veasey. Please vote Veasey aye.

3754   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

3755   *The Chair. How is Mr. Tonko recorded?

3756   *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko is not recorded.

3757   *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

3758   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

3759   *The Chair. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

3760   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

3761   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

3762   *The Chair. How is Mr. Walberg --

3763   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

3764   *The Chair. -- recorded?

3765   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

3766   *The Chair. How is Mr. Weber recorded?

3767   *Mr. Weber. Mr. Weber is not recorded.

3768   *Mr. Weber. Aye.

3769   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

3770   [Pause.]

3771   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

3772   [Pause.]

3773   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 40

3774   ayes and 0 noes.

3775   *The Chair. The ayes have it, the bill is adopted.

3776   The chair calls up H.R. 7858, as amended by the

3777   Subcommittee on Health, and asks the clerk to report.

3778   *The Clerk. H.R. 7858, a bill to amend title 18 of the

3779   Social Security Act to establish a Medicare incident to

3780   modifier for mental health --

3781   *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the

3782   bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

3783   amendment at any point.

3784   So ordered.

3785   [The bill follows:]

3786

This is an unedited transcript. The statements within may be inaccurate, incomplete, or misattributed to the speaker.

3787   **********COMMITTEE INSERT**********

3788

3789 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the

3790 bill?

3791 For what purpose does Mr. James seek recognition? Maybe

3792 an introduction?

3793 *Mr. James. Chairwoman Rodgers, it is my honor to be

3794 sitting for my first full committee markup as the newest

3795 member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and it is my

3796 even bigger honor to have my oldest son, also John James from

3797 Michigan --

3798 *The Chair. All right.

3799 *Mr. James. -- to sit beside me on one of my firsts, as

3800 well.

3801 *The Chair. Yay, welcome, John James.

3802 [Applause.]

3803 *The Chair. Both John Jameses.

3804 *Mr. James. John, you get to witness on your first time

3805 here Congress truly working well, every single one of us

3806 voting unanimously to benefit the American people.

3807 Chairwoman Rodgers, I would like to strike the last

3808 word.

3809 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized for five

3810   minutes.

3811   *Mr. James. Again, I would like to express my gratitude

3812   to the House Energy and Commerce Committee for the

3813   opportunity to participate in this full committee hearing,

3814   and with my son, and to offer this crucial piece of

3815   legislation. Your dedication to improving our health care

3816   system is commendable, and it is an honor to sit before you

3817   here today to discuss a bill that holds significant promise

3818   for our nation.

3819   The bill we are considering here is more than just a

3820   piece of legislation. It is a pathway to enhancing health

3821   care delivery for millions. It is, at its core, a bill that

3822   ensures patients receive the care they need, when and in the

3823   manner that upholds the highest standards of integrity and

3824   efficiency.

3825   Telehealth expands access to quality health care for all

3826   Americans, breaking down geographic and economic barriers to

3827   ensure everyone receives the care they need and deserve. My

3828   bill is designed to support the sustainability and integrity

3829   of our health care programs by implementing measures that

3830   promote transparency, accountability, and prudent use of

3831   resources. We can safeguard these programs for future

3832   generations.

3833   Ensuring program integrity is not just about preventing

3834   fraud, waste, and abuse. It is about maintaining the trust

3835   of the American people in our health care system. My bill

3836   represents a step forward in our ongoing efforts to improve

3837   the integrity and to ensure patients are fully benefitting

3838   from expanded access to telehealth care services.

3839   This bill is a win for patients. It is a win for the

3840   integrity of our health care programs.

3841   *Mr. James, Jr. Thank you, Chair Rodgers, and thank you

3842   to the members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for

3843   your attention and consideration. Together we can make a

3844   meaningful difference in the lives of countless Americans.

3845   *Mr. James. Thank you, Madam Chair.

3846   [Applause.]

3847   *Mr. James. With that we yield.

3848   *The Chair. All right. That may be the best speech

3849   yet. All right. The gentlemen, John James and his son, John

3850   James, yield back. All right.

3851   Is there any further discussion?

3852   For what purpose does Mrs. Dingell seek recognition?

3853   *Mrs. Dingell. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last

3854 word.

3855   *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized for five

3856 minutes.

3857   *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Madam Chair.

3858   Like many of my colleagues, I am deeply supportive of

3859 telehealth, and appreciative of the changes this bill is

3860 making to improve delivery of mental health services via

3861 telehealth. This bill will implement a coding modifier for

3862 mental health services furnished via telehealth to improve

3863 delivery of these critical services.

3864   Mental health matters, and this bill takes steps to

3865 improve Americans' -- especially those in rural communities

3866 -- access to the mental health care they need and deserve,

3867 and I thank my colleague from Michigan for leading it.

3868   During past hearings we have heard from a variety of

3869 witnesses that telehealth is being used, is trusted, and is

3870 effective. But the new data captured by this bill will show

3871 us even more what is further needed to strengthen access to

3872 important telehealth services.

3873   On a broader issue, I would like to highlight the

3874 bipartisan work on another bill, H.R. 7623, the Telehealth

3875 Modernization Act. This legislation would make permanent the

3876 COVID-era telehealth flexibilities that are set to expire at

3877 the end of this year, and remove originating and geographic

3878 site restrictions which would allow patients to access

3879 telehealth from their homes, and would support patients in

3880 both rural and urban areas.

3881   This legislation also would make permanent the ability

3882 of federally-qualified health centers and rural health

3883 clinics to provide telehealth services and provide adequate

3884 reimbursement in those settings to ensure continued provision

3885 of virtual services. These services are critical for helping

3886 all patients access the care they need from the comfort and

3887 safety of their own homes, especially when they don't have

3888 providers near them, don't have transportation, or are older

3889 or sick.

3890   I am grateful for this committee's focus on telehealth

3891 and the good it is doing in communities across America, and

3892 optimistic that the committee will continue to work on

3893 broader legislation, as well. I urge my colleagues to

3894   support the Telehealth Enhancement for Mental Health Act, but

3895   also urge this committee to bring the more -- the broader

3896   bill as soon as we can for reauthorization.

3897   Thank you, and I yield back, Madam Chair.

3898   *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there

3899   further discussion?

3900   The question now occurs on approving H.R. 7858, as

3901   amended. A roll call has been requested. The clerk will

3902   call the roll.

3903   *The Clerk. Burgess?

3904   [No response.]

3905   *The Clerk. Latta?

3906   *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3907   *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

3908   Guthrie?

3909   [No response.]

3910   *The Clerk. Griffith?

3911   *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3912   *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

3913   Bilirakis?

3914   [No response.]

3915   *The Clerk. Bucshon?

3916   *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

3917   *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

3918   Hudson?

3919   *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3920   *The Clerk. Hudson votes aye.

3921   Walberg?

3922   *Mr. Walberg. Aye.

3923   *The Clerk. Walberg votes aye.

3924   Carter?

3925   *Mr. Carter. Aye.

3926   *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

3927   Duncan?

3928   *Mr. Duncan. Yes.

3929   *The Clerk. Duncan votes aye.

3930   Palmer?

3931   [No response.]

3932   *The Clerk. Dunn?

3933   *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

3934   *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

3935   Curtis?

3936   [No response.]

3937   *The Clerk. Lesko?

3938   *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

3939   *The Clerk. Lesko votes aye.

3940   Pence?

3941   *Mr. Pence. Aye.

3942   *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

3943   Crenshaw?

3944   *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

3945   *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

3946   Joyce?

3947   *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

3948   *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

3949   Armstrong?

3950   [No response.]

3951   *The Clerk. Weber?

3952   *Mr. Weber. Aye.

3953   *The Clerk. Weber votes aye.

3954   Allen?

3955   *Mr. Allen. Aye.

3956   *The Clerk. Allen votes aye.

3957   Balderson?

3958   *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

3959   *The Clerk. Balderson votes aye.

3960   Fulcher?

3961   *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

3962   *The Clerk. Fulcher votes aye.

3963   Pfluger?

3964   [No response.]

3965   *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

3966   *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

3967   *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

3968   Miller-Meeks?

3969   *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

3970   *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

3971   Cammack?

3972   [No response.]

3973   *The Clerk. Obernolte?

3974   *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

3975   *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

3976   James?

3977   *Mr. James, Jr. Aye.

3978   *The Clerk. James votes aye.

3979   Pallone?

3980   *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

3981   *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

3982   Eshoo?

3983   *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

3984   *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

3985   DeGette?

3986   [No response.]

3987   *The Clerk. Schakowsky?

3988   *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3989   *The Clerk. Schakowsky votes aye.

3990   Matsui?

3991   *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3992   *The Clerk. Matsui votes aye.

3993   Castor?

3994   *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3995   *The Clerk. Castor votes aye.

3996   Sarbanes?

3997   [No response.]

3998   *The Clerk. Tonko?

3999   *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

4000   *The Clerk. Tonko votes aye.

4001   Clarke?

4002   [No response.]

4003   *The Clerk. Cardenas?

4004   *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

4005   *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

4006   Ruiz?

4007   *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

4008   *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

4009   Peters?

4010   *Mr. Peters. Aye.

4011   *The Clerk. Peters votes aye.

4012   Dingell?

4013   *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

4014   *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

4015   Veasey?

4016   *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

4017   *The Clerk. Veasey votes aye.

4018   Kuster?

4019   *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

4020   *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

4021   Kelly?

4022   *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

4023   *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

4024   Barragan?

4025   [No response.]

4026   *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

4027   [No response.]

4028   *The Clerk. Soto?

4029   *Mr. Soto. Aye.

4030   *The Clerk. Soto votes aye.

4031   Craig?

4032   *Ms. Craig. Aye.

4033   *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

4034   Schrier?

4035   *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

4036   *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

4037   Trahan?

4038   [No response.]

4039   *The Clerk. Fletcher?

4040   [No response.]

4041   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers?

4042   *The Chair. Aye.

4043   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

4044   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

4045   *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

4046   *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

4047   *Mrs. Fletcher. How is Fletcher recorded?

4048   *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher is not recorded.

4049   *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.

4050   *The Clerk. Fletcher votes aye.

4051   *Mr. Palmer. Palmer?

4052   *The Chair. Madam Clerk, how is Mr. Palmer recorded?

4053   *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

4054   *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

4055   *The Clerk. Palmer votes aye.

4056   *The Chair. The clerk will report.

4057   [Pause.]

4058   *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers, on that vote there were 40

4059   ayes and 0 noes.

4060   *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

4061   Without objection, staff is authorized to make technical

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4062   and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the

4063   committee today.

4064   So ordered.

4065   Without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

4066   [Whereupon, at 1:00 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]