

Rep. Joseph R. Pitts
Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Hearing
“Examining Public Health Legislation to Help Patients and Local
Communities”
January 27, 2015

The Subcommittee will come to order.

The Chair will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Today, the Subcommittee will consider some unfinished business from the last Congress, in the form of six bills.

- The Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act, sponsored by Rep. Adam Kinzinger, would assist states in streamlining their certification requirements for those veterans with emergency medical technician (EMT) training who want to work in the civilian workforce.
- The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act, or NASPER, sponsored by Rep. Ed Whitfield, would reauthorize the NASPER program to support State prescription drug monitoring programs.
- The Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, sponsored by Rep. Burgess and Ranking Member Green, would reauthorize certain trauma care programs through FY2019.
- The Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act, to be sponsored by Rep. Burgess and Ranking Member Green, would reauthorize trauma center care grants.
- H.R. 471, introduced by Reps. Marino, Blackburn, Welch, and Chu, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015, would improve law enforcement efforts regarding prescription drug diversion and abuse.

- And, the Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act, which I introduced along with Ranking Member Pallone last Congress, and will be reintroducing shortly, seeks to improve the transparency and consistency of the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) scheduling of new FDA-approved drugs under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

I look forward to the testimony of all of our witnesses today, and I yield the remainder of my time to Rep. _____.