



June 22, 2015

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “Examining Public Health Legislation: H.R. 2820, H.R. 1344, and H.R. 1462”

I. INTRODUCTION

On June 25, 2015, at 10:15 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “Examining Public Health Legislation: H.R. 2820, H.R. 1344 and H.R. 1462.”

II. WITNESSES

- Joanne Kurtzberg, M.D., President, Cord Blood Association;
- Jeff Chell, M.D., Chief Executive Officer, National Marrow Donor Program;
- Patti Freemyer, Martin PhD, Director of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology, Arkansas Children’s Hospital;
- Stephen W. Patrick, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy, Department of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; and,
- Mishka Terplan, M.D., M.P.H., FACOG, Medical Director, Behavior Health System Baltimore.

III. BACKGROUND

A. H.R. 2820, Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act

Stem cells from both cord blood and bone marrow are used to treat nearly eighty life-threatening diseases – from cancers to blood diseases to immune disorders. H.R. 2820 would reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act, which provides Federal support for cord blood donation, a national bone marrow registry, and research essential to increasing patient access to transplants.

B. H.R. 1344, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2015

H.R. 1344 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment for deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

C. H.R. 1462, Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015

In recent years, there has been a steady rise in the number of overdose deaths involving heroin. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the death rate for heroin overdose doubled from 2010 to 2012. At the same time, there has been an increase in cases of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). NAS refers to medical issues associated with drug withdrawal in newborns due to exposure to opioids or other drugs in utero. H.R. 1462 would help combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

IV. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Katie Novaria or Adrianna Simonelli with the Energy and Commerce Committee at (202) 225-2927.