



October 6, 2015

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “Examining Legislative Proposals to Combat our Nation’s Drug Abuse Crisis”

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 8, 2015, at 10:15 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “Examining Legislative Proposals to Combat Our Nation’s Drug Abuse Crisis.” The Subcommittee will hear testimony from a first panel of Federal government witnesses. The Subcommittee will reconvene for a second panel at a later date.

II. WITNESSES

Panel 1

- Mr. Michael Botticelli, Director, National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President;
- Dr. Richard Frank, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Health and Human Services; and
- Mr. Jack Riley, Deputy Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration.

III. BACKGROUND

This hearing will build upon the five hearings the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held over the past year and a half to better understand the root causes of our nation’s drug abuse crisis and examine various approaches to prevention and treatment. This growing and confounding epidemic is devastating families and communities across demographic groups in virtually every part of the country. Informed by discussions with affected constituents and dedicated experts, Members on both sides of the aisle have spearheaded the following legislative solutions on which this hearing will focus:

H.R. 2536, Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act

H.R. 2536, Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment Act, was introduced by Rep. Higgins (NY), Rep. Hanna (NY), Rep. Tonko (NY), and Rep. Kalko (NY). H.R. 2536 would lift

the current 100 patient cap on the nation's 30,000 physicians who have waivers to prescribe buprenorphine to opioid addicted individuals.

H.R. 2805, Heroin and Prescription Opioid Abuse Prevention, Education, and Enforcement Act of 2015

H.R. 2805, Heroin and Prescription Opioid Abuse Prevention, Education, and Enforcement Act of 2015, sponsored by Rep. Brooks (IN) and Rep. Kennedy (MA), would, among other things, require an interagency task force to develop best prescribing practices and direct the Office of National Drug Control Policy to establish a national awareness campaign.

H.R. 2872, Opioid Addiction Treatment Modernization Act

H.R. 2872, Opioid Addiction Treatment Modernization Act, was introduced by Rep. Bucshon (IN) and Rep. Womack (AR) and would help ensure that both opioid maintenance and opioid relapse prevention treatments are provided to patients in office-based opioid treatment programs based on their individual needs.

H.R. 3014, Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2015

H.R. 3014, Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act, was introduced by Rep. Sessions (TX) and would amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow registered physicians to transport and administer controlled substances to patients at other practice settings and disaster areas if the physician enters into an agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

H.R. 3537, Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015

H.R. 3537, Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015, introduced by Rep. Dent (PA), Rep. Himes (CT), Del. Holmes Norton (D.C), and Rep. Jolly (FL), would place certain synthetic drug compounds on schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

H.R. __, Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2015

H.R. __, Improving Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women Act of 2015, drafted by Rep. Lujan (NM), would establish a pilot grant program for State substance abuse agencies specifically to support family based services for pregnant and postpartum women with a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder, which would include opioid addiction.

H.R. __, Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act of 2015

H.R. ____, Co-Prescribing to Reduce Overdoses Act of 2015, drafted by Rep. Sarbanes (MD), would establish a program for co-prescribing opioid overdose reversal drugs and patient tracking and training for health care providers.

IV. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Carly McWilliams, Katie Novaria, John Stone, or Adrianna Simonelli at (202) 225-2927.