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5 MARKUP ON H.R. 619, NAPA REAUTHORIZATION ACT;

6 H.R. 620, ALZHEIMER'S ACCOUNTABILITY AND INVESTMENT ACT;

7 H.R. 7218, BUILDING OUR LARGEST DEMENTIA (BOLD)

8 INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S ACT OF 2024;

9 H.R. 5012, SHINE FOR AUTUMN ACT OF 2023;

10 H.R. 4581, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH STILLBIRTH PREVENTION

11 ACT OF 2023;

12 H.R. 2706, CHARLOTTE WOODWARD ORGAN TRANSPLANT DISCRIMINATION

13 PREVENTION ACT;

14 H.R. 4646, SIREN REAUTHORIZATION ACT;

15 H.R. 6160, TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO

16 REAUTHORIZE A LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE PROGRAM;

17 H.R. 6960, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

18 REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024;

19 H.R. 7153, DR. LORNA BREEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROTECTION

20 REAUTHORIZATION ACT;

21 H.R. 7251, POISON CONTROL CENTERS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF

22 2024;

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23 H.R. 7224, TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO
24 REAUTHORIZE THE STOP, OBSERVE, ASK, AND RESPOND TO HEALTH AND
25 WELLNESS TRAINING PROGRAM;
26 H.R. 7208, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT
27 OF 2024;
28 H.R. 6829, CARDIOMYOPATHY HEALTH EDUCATION, AWARENESS,
29 RESEARCH, AND TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS (HEARTS) ACT OF 2023;
30 H.R. 7189, CONGENITAL HEART FUTURES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
31 2024;
32 H.R. 7406, DEONDRA DIXON INCLUDE PROJECT ACT OF 2024;
33 H.R. 3916, SCREENS FOR CANCER ACT OF 2023;
34 H.R. 5074, KIDNEY PATIENT ACT; AND
35 H.R. 5526, SENIORS' ACCESS TO CRITICAL MEDICATIONS ACT OF
36 2023
37 TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
38 House of Representatives,
39 Subcommittee on Health,
40 Committee on Energy and Commerce,
41 Washington, D.C.

42

43 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:04 a.m. in
44 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie

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45 [chairman of the subcommittee], presiding.

46

47 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Burgess, Latta,
48 Griffith, Bilirakis, Bucshon, Hudson, Carter, Dunn, Pence,
49 Crenshaw, Joyce, Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks, Obernolte, and
50 Rodgers (ex officio); Eshoo, Sarbanes, Cardenas, Ruiz,
51 Dingell, Kuster, Kelly, Barragan, Craig, Schrier, Trahan, and
52 Pallone (ex officio)

53

54 Staff Present: Jolie Brochin, Clerk, Health; Sarah
55 Burke, Deputy Staff Director; Kristin Flukey, Professional
56 Staff Member, Health; Seth Gold, Professional Staff Member,
57 Health; Grace Graham, Chief Counsel, Health; Jessica Herron,
58 Clerk, CPAC; Nate Hodson, Staff Director; Tara Hupman, Chief
59 Counsel; Noah Jackson, Clerk, C&T; Lauren Kennedy, Clerk;
60 Alex Khlopin, Staff Assistant; Peter Kielty, General Counsel;
61 Emily King, Member Services Director; Chris Krepich, Press
62 Secretary; Molly Lolli, Counsel, Health; Kaitlyn Peterson,
63 Clerk, Energy & Environment; Emma Schultheis, Clerk; Caitlin
64 Wilson, Counsel; Jay Gutshen, Senior Professional Staff
65 Member; Lydia Abma, Minority Policy Analyst; Shana Beavin,
66 Minority Professional Staff Member; Keegan Cardman, Minority

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67 Staff Assistant; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff
68 Director and General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority
69 Staff Director; Perry Hamilton, Minority Member Services and
70 Outreach Manager; Saha Khaterzai, Minority Professional Staff
71 Member; Una Lee, Minority Chief Health Counsel; Katarina
72 Morgan, Minority Health Fellow; and Andrew Souvall, Minority
73 Director of Communications, Outreach, and Member Services.

74

75 *Mr. Guthrie. The subcommittee will come to order, and
76 the chair recognizes himself for an opening statement.

77 The legislation before us today will detect, diagnose,
78 and treat chronic diseases and health conditions at earlier
79 stages; improve the quality of life for individuals with
80 disabilities and their families; help ensure Americans in
81 rural communities have access to lifesaving care; and provide
82 additional resources to assist in the development of cutting-
83 edge innovation.

84 Last month we heard from numerous public health experts
85 about how these programs are functioning, and whether there
86 are any gaps that need to be addressed in these programs to
87 improve research and health outcomes for patients across the
88 country. The bills before us today will help ensure these

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89 critical programs continue.

90 To better help detect, diagnose, and treat Alzheimer's
91 disease I am proud we are marking up my bipartisan bill, H.R.
92 7218, the Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for
93 Alzheimer's Reauthorization Act of 2024, or BOLD Act. The
94 BOLD reauthorization also includes educational resources to
95 help ease these challenges of those caring for loved ones
96 with this vicious disease. These continued investments for
97 caregivers are even more important now that we have
98 treatments to slow the progression of Alzheimer's, and will
99 help to ensure patients and their families have more
100 meaningful time together.

101 I would like to thank Representative Tonko for leading
102 this legislation with me, and I urge my colleagues to vote
103 yes on the legislation.

104 We are also considering the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE
105 Project, led by Chair Rodgers, which will allow current
106 programs at the National Institutes of Health to continue
107 cutting-edge research on Down syndrome. The INCLUDE Project
108 will continue to facilitate improved coordination across NIH,
109 and build upon research that will improve the quality of life
110 for those individuals living with Down syndrome, and can lead

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111 to medical knowledge that benefits all patients.

112 To support patients and caregivers we are marking up
113 legislation led by Representative Cammack, the Charlotte
114 Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act. The
115 legislation would prohibit health care providers and other
116 entities from denying or restricting an individual's access
117 to organ transplant solely on the basis of an individual's
118 disability.

119 Over a decade ago, Charlotte Woodward received a heart
120 transplant and has committed her life's work to breaking down
121 unnecessary and discriminatory barriers for individuals with
122 disabilities in need of an organ transplant. Thanks to
123 Charlotte's fierce advocacy, we are one step closer to
124 ensuring individuals and their families don't have to go
125 through what too many have faced when seeking lifesaving
126 treatment.

127 Other bills being considered today are designed to
128 improve access to critical emergency services for children
129 and for those living in rural communities. The SIREN
130 Reauthorization Act by David Joyce will continue providing
131 resources for rural emergency health providers, medical
132 providers to ensure they can maintain their essential

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133 services. I know we are still working through some policy
134 considerations, but I am confident we can come to a
135 resolution before the program expires in September.

136 Next is the bipartisan Emergency Medical Services for
137 Children Reauthorization Act. It is often said that children
138 are not just little adults. This bill will continue
139 programing designed to ensure EMS providers have the proper
140 training and equipment to care for children in emergency
141 situations.

142 Finally, we are marking two _ up two pieces of
143 legislation that we heard about in the fall: the Seniors'
144 Access to Critical Medications Act, led by Representative
145 Harshbarger; and Kidney PATIENT Act, led by Mr. Carter. The
146 Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act would allow
147 cancer patients to continue receiving the necessary care in
148 the safest, most convenient way possible. I look forward to
149 working with my committee colleagues to advance these two
150 bills out of subcommittee today, and addressing any
151 additional outstanding issues before full committee.

152 Thank you to all my colleagues who worked hard to get
153 the legislation before us today, and for their leadership on
154 these policies.

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155 I yield back and I represent (sic) the ranking member,
156 Chair _ Ranking Member Eshoo for five minutes for her opening
157 statement.

158 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning,
159 colleagues.

160 Part of our essential work as members is making sure
161 that important public health programs nearing their
162 expiration are continued, improved, and, in some cases,
163 expanded. I am so pleased that our subcommittee is beginning
164 that work today by marking up 19 bills to authorize public
165 health programs that support and improve the health and the
166 well-being of adults, as well as children.

167 We will consider legislation to support patients in the
168 fight against cancer. The SCREENS Act for Cancer Act,
169 introduced by Representatives Morelle and Fitzpatrick,
170 reauthorizes through fiscal year 2028 the National Breast and
171 Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which has provided
172 lifesaving cancer screening and screening services to low-
173 income, uninsured, and under-insured women in all 50 states.
174 The legislation addresses the alarming trend of young adults,
175 especially women, being diagnosed with late-stage cancer.
176 Current cancer screening guidelines have not kept pace with

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177 these trends, and the bill will help move the needle on this.

178 We will also consider bills to enhance medical research
179 at the NIH and ensure that all Americans are included in
180 research, such as the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act,
181 introduced by Chair Rodgers, Representatives DeGette and
182 DeLauro. The legislation authorizes the INCLUDE Project at
183 the NIH for five years, and ensures individuals with Down
184 syndrome live healthy, long lives. The individuals with Down
185 syndrome are highly predisposed to diseases like Alzheimer's,
186 yet are included in very few clinical trials and research
187 programs.

188 We will also consider two bills to improve medication
189 adherence and access for patients diagnosed with kidney
190 disease or fighting cancer. I hope we can come to a
191 bipartisan agreement on these bills to put patients first.

192 No matter where one lives in our country, the critical
193 programs at CDC and HRSA will make important differences in
194 the lives of millions of Americans, and I stand ready to work
195 with all of my colleagues to ensure that these programs are
196 reauthorized.

197 So thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

198 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.

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199 The chair recognizes the chair of the full committee, Chair
200 Rodgers, for five minutes for her opening statement.

201 *The Chair. Good morning. I am glad we are here today,
202 moving so many important pieces of legislation that will
203 strengthen the health and well-being of the American people,
204 almost all of which have broad bipartisan support.

205 This committee continues to prioritize examining
206 programs set to expire, making changes if necessary, and
207 reauthorizing those programs in advance of their expiration.
208 Many of the bills before us today reauthorize important
209 programs that are due to expire September 30, and I am
210 hopeful we can renew them in advance of that deadline through
211 regular order.

212 This committee has a rich history of plowing the hard
213 ground necessary to legislate, including our bipartisan work
214 to ensure we are moving forward timely reauthorizations, as
215 well as new efforts like the Lower Cost More Transparency
216 Act. I look forward to seeing all of these important
217 initiatives be signed into law.

218 I am especially excited that we are considering my
219 legislation to authorize the INCLUDE Project at the National
220 Institutes of Health, which signals to appropriators that it

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221 should continue and receive robust support. My mission of
222 improving the lives of individuals with disabilities is no
223 secret, and is deeply personal. At the time INCLUDE was
224 established, Down syndrome was among the least studied and
225 funded genetic conditions at NIH, despite it being one of the
226 most common chromosome abnormalities. And now INCLUDE has
227 funded over 200 awards, and helps coordinate Down syndrome
228 research and resources across 20 NIH institutes and centers.

229 One of the most incredible things about the INCLUDE
230 Project is its potential, not just to benefit those
231 individuals with Down syndrome, but for all patients that
232 suffer from cancer, Alzheimer's, and many other conditions
233 that occur often in those with Down syndrome.

234 I am proud of the work of this bill, and the INCLUDE
235 Project and what it has already accomplished, and I ask for
236 your support in helping everyone with Down syndrome and their
237 families _ and many more _ live lives to their fullest
238 potential. My legislation, as drafted, increases the
239 authorized level over what is currently appropriated.

240 I will continue to explore all options to ensure we are
241 authorizing this program in a fiscally responsible manner.
242 That said, I would like to move forward today with a voice

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243 vote as we continue to work on how best to address the
244 important funding for this program.

245 Additionally, we will be considering Representative
246 Harshbarger's bipartisan Seniors' Access to Critical
247 Medications Act, which has been cosponsored by a number of
248 members from both sides of the aisle on this committee. I
249 know that there is more work to be done regarding technical
250 assistance and offsetting any cost associated with the bill,
251 but I am hopeful that we will be able to resolve those issues
252 before consideration by the full committee.

253 We are also considering Representative Carter's
254 bipartisan Kidney PATIENT Act. As we discuss this bill I
255 would note that Congress has delayed putting these drugs into
256 the ESRD bundle in previous laws with bipartisan support.
257 And just last week a version of this policy passed out of
258 Ways and Means Committee with only one no vote. I hope my
259 colleagues support the bill today and, if necessary, we can
260 continue working on technical issues before the full
261 committee markup.

262 I won't take the time to discuss in detail all of the
263 other important bills before the subcommittee today on issues
264 such as Alzheimer's, heart disease research, emergency care,

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265 but this markup is an example of how this committee continues
266 to lead the way in showing how to get work done for the
267 American people. I am proud of what we continue to
268 accomplish when we work together, and I look forward to
269 furthering this important work with all of you.

270 I yield back.

271 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you. The chair yields back. The
272 chair will now recognize the ranking member of the full
273 committee, Ranking Member Pallone, for five minutes for an
274 opening statement.

275 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

276 Today this subcommittee will reaffirm its commitment to
277 supporting our nation's public health infrastructure by
278 considering bipartisan legislation to strengthen or extend
279 important public health programs.

280 And I am pleased that we will be considering H.R. 6829,
281 the HEARTS Act, which I introduced in December. This bill
282 was inspired by two New Jersey families who each tragically
283 lost a child to sudden cardiac arrest during high school
284 sporting events. Sadly, more than 2,000 children and
285 adolescents die this way every single year, and the bill aims
286 to prevent future deaths from cardiac arrest by preparing

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287 schools to respond to cardiac emergencies when they occur.
288 It directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to
289 develop guidelines on the placement of automated external
290 defibrillators, or AEDs, in schools, and to provide resources
291 to help schools create and implement a cardiac emergency
292 response plan. The HEARTS Act will raise awareness about the
293 causes of sudden cardiac arrest, and ensure schools are more
294 prepared to deal with cardiac emergencies so we can save
295 lives.

296 We will also consider other legislation to extend key
297 public health priorities. Three bills will support the
298 estimated 6.7 million Americans over the age of 65 who are
299 living with Alzheimer's disease. Two bills will support the
300 continued mission of the National Alzheimer's Project to
301 coordinate Federal planning and funding to promote healthy
302 aging, and a third bill reauthorizes the BOLD Infrastructure
303 Program to help public health departments implement effective
304 Alzheimer's interventions.

305 We also have a bill to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen
306 Health Care Provider Protection Act, which promotes
307 strategies to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, and
308 substance use disorders among our health care providers.

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309 This reauthorization is essential, considering that the
310 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns of a mental
311 health crisis among health workers who routinely face
312 harassment, burnout, and poor mental health related to their
313 jobs. I strongly support this bill, which reauthorizes the
314 program for five years.

315 We have other bills to reauthorize public health
316 programs that strengthen rural emergency medical services,
317 fund poison control centers, improve research into Down
318 syndrome and stillbirths, and provide screening and support
319 to patients with traumatic brain injury and women with
320 lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings. These
321 public health reauthorization bills should all be advanced to
322 the full committee.

323 And while I strongly endorse many of the bills being
324 considered today, there are a couple of bills I can't
325 support. I have significant concerns with H.R. 5074, as I
326 believe the bill would further impede seniors' access to
327 necessary medication and raise their health care costs by
328 further delaying the inclusion of oral-only drugs to treat
329 end stage renal disease into Medicare Part B. These drugs
330 are crucial for over 60 percent of patients on dialysis who

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331 rely on them for necessary care.

332 Right now about 20 percent of Medicare patients on
333 dialysis do not have Part D coverage. Congress has acted to
334 delay inclusion of these drugs into the ESRD bundle for a
335 decade, at the expense of some seniors without access to
336 prescription drug coverage. And I do not agree with
337 supporters of this legislation that the system is not ready
338 for the transition. It is time for the delays to stop.

339 I am also disappointed we could not find a bipartisan
340 path forward on H.R. 5526. Congress enacted the physician
341 self-referral law, also known as the Stark Law, to ensure
342 that physician financial considerations do not influence
343 patient care. Under the Stark Law, physicians are prohibited
344 from making referrals to entities where the physician has a
345 financial stake.

346 It is critical in ensuring that financial arrangements
347 do not distort physician decision-making or raise health care
348 costs, and I share the concerns of the HHS Office of
349 Inspector General and law enforcement agencies that by
350 further broadening the exemptions under the Stark Act, the
351 bill would undermine their ability to protect the integrity
352 of the Medicare program.

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353 I also understand the Congressional Budget Office
354 estimates that this bill has significant scoring
355 implications, partly due to increased over-utilization.
356 Patients deserve access to treatment that is medically
357 appropriate and necessary for them, and I can't support a
358 bill that would undermine patient safety and raise health
359 care costs for seniors.

360 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
361 my time. Thank you.

362 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you.

363 The ranking member yields back. That concludes opening
364 statements, and we will now move to the markup, and the chair
365 calls up H.R. 619, and asks the clerk to report.

366 *The Clerk. H.R. 619, a bill to extend the National
367 Alzheimer's Project.

368 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
369 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
370 amendment at any point.

371 So ordered.

372 [The bill follows:]

373

374 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

375

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376 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

377 Does the gentlelady want to offer an amendment?

378 Any recognition on the bill?

379 Any bipartisan amendments?

380 The gentlelady from Minnesota is recognized.

381 *Ms. Craig. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
382 amendment at the desk.

383 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report the amendment.

384 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
385 H.R. 619, offered by Ms. Craig.

386 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the reading of the
387 amendment is dispensed with.

388 [The amendment of Ms. Craig follows:]

389

390 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

391

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392 *Mr. Guthrie. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
393 minutes in support of the amendment.

394 *Ms. Craig. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
395 word and speak in favor of my amendment in _

396 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady is recognized.

397 *Ms. Craig. Excellent. I would like to start by
398 thanking my colleague from New York, Representative Tonko,
399 for introducing this reauthorization and for his tireless
400 advocacy on behalf of people living with Alzheimer's disease.

401 Congress first passed the National Alzheimer's Project
402 Act, or NAPA, back in 2011 to address the rapid growth in
403 Alzheimer's and other dementia diagnoses. NAPA created the
404 country's first national strategic plan around Alzheimer's
405 disease, and set an ambitious goal of preventing and
406 effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025. While tremendous
407 progress has been made since 2011, the search for a cure
408 continues.

409 I would like to take a moment to share the story of a
410 constituent of mine, Ralph Jewell. Ralph is a _ was a
411 resident of Mendota Heights, Minnesota. He first began to
412 experience symptoms shortly after he retired in 2006. His
413 wife, Kay, began to notice that Ralph, an avid outdoorsman

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414 with a keen sense of direction, was getting lost on the way
415 home from running errands. Ralph became increasingly
416 forgetful and, after consulting with a physician, was
417 subsequently misdiagnosed with depression. It was only after
418 Kay's fierce advocacy on her husband's behalf that he
419 received a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease a few months
420 later. Ralph lived another 9 years before passing away from
421 the disease in 2016.

422 Ralph and Kay's story is just one example of why this
423 legislation is so critical. This reauthorization, as
424 amended, would extend NAPA for another decade, through 2035,
425 to continue the critical work of coordinating and finding
426 efforts toward new Alzheimer's breakthrough treatments. The
427 NAPA Reauthorization Act renews this committee's commitment
428 to the nearly seven million Americans living with Alzheimer's
429 dementia like Ralph.

430 Thank you again to Congressman Tonko, and for your
431 leadership, Mr. Chairman, on this issue. And with that I
432 yield back.

433 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone
434 looking for recognition on the amendment?

435 The gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter, is recognized to

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436 speak on the _

437 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman _

438 *Mr. Guthrie. _ amendment.

439 *Mr. Carter. _ I move to strike the last word.

440 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman is recognized.

441 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to join my
442 colleagues in supporting the National Alzheimer's Project
443 Reauthorization Act.

444 As my colleagues have pointed out, the legislation
445 reauthorizes the National Alzheimer's Project Act through
446 2035 to provide a road map for Federal efforts in responding
447 to Alzheimer's and dementia.

448 Alzheimer's is a cruel disease that attacks a person's
449 quality of life. As a pharmacist, I saw firsthand the impact
450 of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia have on patients,
451 families, caregivers, and society overall. People living
452 with Alzheimer's lose their memories, their independence,
453 their relationships, and ultimately their lives.

454 Beyond the patients, caregivers and loved ones endure
455 immense emotional and financial difficulties. With 6.7
456 million Americans suffering from _ with Alzheimer's, there is
457 a crucial need for Federal resources to prevent, treat, and

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458 ultimately find a cure for this devastating disease.

459 I am optimistic that the tide can be reversed. We now
460 have FDA-approved treatments to slow disease progression, and
461 I think we can all agree that we look forward to the day the
462 world has its first survivor of Alzheimer's.

463 While great progress has been made and new therapies are
464 advancing to help patients and caregivers, we cannot let up
465 the fight. In honor of those who have battled and continue
466 to battle this disease, let's continue to work together to
467 raise awareness and pass this bill.

468 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the remainder
469 of my time.

470 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
471 else seeking recognition on the amendment?

472 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote
473 occurs on the amendment offered by the gentlelady from
474 Minnesota.

475 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

476 All those a no?

477 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

478 Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

479 Seeing no other discussion, the question now occurs on

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480 forwarding H.R. 619, as amended, to the full committee.

481 All those in favor will say aye.

482 All those _ a roll call has been requested, so the clerk
483 will call the roll.

484 *The Clerk. Burgess?

485 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

486 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

487 Latta?

488 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

489 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

490 Griffith?

491 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

492 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

493 Bilirakis?

494 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

495 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

496 Bucshon?

497 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

498 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

499 Hudson?

500 [No response.]

501 *The Clerk. Carter?

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502 *Mr. Carter. Aye.

503 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

504 Dunn?

505 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

506 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

507 Pence?

508 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

509 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

510 Crenshaw?

511 [No response.]

512 *The Clerk. Joyce?

513 [No response.]

514 *The Clerk. Harshbarger?

515 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

516 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

517 Miller-Meeks?

518 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

519 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

520 Oberholte?

521 *Mr. Oberholte. Aye.

522 *The Clerk. Oberholte votes aye.

523 Guthrie?

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524 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
525 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
526 Eshoo?
527 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
528 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
529 Sarbanes?
530 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
531 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
532 Cardenas?
533 [No response.]
534 *The Clerk. Ruiz?
535 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
536 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
537 Dingell?
538 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
539 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
540 Kuster?
541 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
542 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
543 Kelly?
544 [No response.]
545 *The Clerk. Barragan?

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546 [No response.]

547 *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?

548 [No response.]

549 *The Clerk. Craig?

550 *Ms. Craig. Aye.

551 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

552 Schrier?

553 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

554 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

555 Trahan?

556 [No response.]

557 *The Clerk. Pallone?

558 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

559 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

560 Rodgers?

561 *The Chair. Aye.

562 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

563 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report.

564 Oh, is anyone not seeking _ anybody seeking recognition

565 to _ Ms. Kelly, how is Ms. Kelly recorded?

566 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly is not recorded.

567 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

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568 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

569 *Mr. Guthrie. Ms. Barragan?

570 *The Clerk. Barragan is not recorded.

571 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

572 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.

573 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone else seeking recognition for
574 answer to the roll call?

575 Seeing no members seeking to answer the roll call, the
576 clerk will report.

577 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 23
578 ayes and 0 noes.

579 *Mr. Guthrie. With 23 ayes and 0 noes _ is the _ how is
580 the gentleman from Pennsylvania recorded?

581 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.

582 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

583 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

584 *Mr. Guthrie. Since I hadn't called the vote yet _ how
585 is the gentleman from California recorded?

586 *The Clerk. Mr. _

587 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

588 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

589 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone else seeking recognition?

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590 The clerk will report.

591 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 25
592 ayes and 0 noes.

593 *Mr. Guthrie. How is the lady from Massachusetts
594 recorded?

595 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

596 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

597 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report.

598 *Mr. Guthrie. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 26
599 ayes and 0 noes.

600 *Mr. Guthrie. Okay, I am about to call the vote. All
601 right. With 26 ayes and 0 nays, the bill is agreed to.

602 The chair calls up H.R. 620, and asks the clerk to
603 report.

604 *The Clerk. H.R. 620, a bill to require an annual
605 budget estimate for the initiatives of the National
606 Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations
607 made under National Alzheimer's Project Act.

608 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
609 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
610 amendment at any point.

611 So ordered.

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

612 [The bill follows:]

613

614 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

615

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616 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

617 The gentleman from Florida, you are recognized to speak
618 on the bill.

619 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
620 strike the last word.

621 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman is recognized.

622 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to
623 speak briefly to express my strong support for all three
624 bills we have on today's agenda that reauthorize critical
625 Alzheimer's care and research programs on the Federal level.

626 Sadly, Alzheimer's is the seventh leading cause of death
627 in the U.S. Today in my home state of Florida, the number of
628 cases is expected to grow by over 24 percent, with an
629 estimated 720,000 individuals living with Alzheimer's.
630 Without a cure, the impact of Alzheimer's will continue to
631 rise, and the number in Florida and across the country will
632 escalate as a result of an aging population.

633 This disease does not discriminate, and I am sure we all
634 have someone or know someone whose family has been affected
635 by Alzheimer's. For me, it is very personal, as my mom has
636 been afflicted by this horrific disease.

637 We must continue our all-of-government approach in the

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638 fight against Alzheimer's, and I am grateful our committee is
639 focusing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all you do, as well,
640 on this issue. But we are focusing on efforts, and these
641 good bills are _ we are moving forward to find a cure.

642 Over a decade ago we passed the National Alzheimer's
643 Project Act to establish a Federal strategic plan to address
644 Alzheimer's and coordinate our Federal programs into finding
645 treatments and supporting caregivers to advance care. And we
646 need it, advanced care for Alzheimer's patients. Since then
647 we have made a tremendous amount of progress, and have
648 channeled these efforts into new research and development in
649 the private sector into new treatment options, and we now
650 have drugs on the market that target early onset Alzheimer's
651 to slow the progression of this disease. Progress is being
652 made.

653 H.R. 619, the NAPA Reauthorization Act, which we just
654 voted on, this is a strategic plan. It updates the current
655 advisory council to include additional stakeholders, add new
656 goals to reduce risk factors, and regularly update Congress
657 on its efforts.

658 Furthermore, H.R. 620, the Alzheimer's Accountability
659 and Investment Act, will extend NIH's ability to submit

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660 annual Alzheimer's research budget proposals to the Congress
661 so we can fully pursue scientific and biomedical research and
662 opportunities nationwide.

663 Lastly, H.R. 7218, the BOLD Infrastructure for
664 Alzheimer's Act, reauthorizes critical public infrastructure
665 programs at the state and Federal levels to ensure we remain
666 committed to supporting families and caregivers, and
667 improving brain health for patients across the country. I am
668 grateful, again, for Chair Guthrie's efforts to reauthorize
669 the BOLD Infrastructure program, and was proud to cosponsor
670 H.R. 7218.

671 I also want to recognize the leadership of my good
672 friend, Chris Smith, and my good friend, Paul Tonko. We work
673 on many issues, including Parkinson's, together. And I want
674 to thank them for their tireless efforts on these particular
675 bills.

676 I ask that my colleagues support the three Alzheimer's-
677 focused bills on the agenda today, and I yield back, Mr.
678 Chairman. Thank you.

679 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
680 seeking recognition to speak on the bill?

681 Seeing no further members seeking recognition on the

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682 bill, does anyone have a _ are there any bipartisan
683 amendments?

684 Any partisan amendments?

685 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
686 620 to the full committee, and a roll call has been
687 requested. The clerk will call the roll.

688 *The Clerk. Burgess?

689 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

690 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

691 Latta?

692 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

693 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

694 Griffith?

695 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

696 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

697 Bilirakis?

698 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

699 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

700 Bucshon?

701 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

702 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

703 Hudson?

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704 [No response.]
705 *The Clerk. Carter?
706 *Mr. Carter. Aye.
707 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.
708 Dunn?
709 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
710 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.
711 Pence?
712 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
713 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
714 Crenshaw?
715 [No response.]
716 *The Clerk. Joyce?
717 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
718 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
719 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 Obernolte?

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726 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
727 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
728 Guthrie?
729 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
730 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
731 Eshoo?
732 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
733 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
734 Sarbanes?
735 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
736 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
737 Cardenas?
738 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
739 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
740 Ruiz?
741 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
742 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
743 Dingell?
744 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
745 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
746 Kuster?
747 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.

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748 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
749 Kelly?
750 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
751 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
752 Barragan?
753 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
754 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
755 Blunt Rochester?
756 [No response.]
757 *The Clerk. Craig?
758 [No response.]
759 *The Clerk. Schrier?
760 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
761 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
762 Trahan?
763 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
764 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
765 Pallone?
766 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
767 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
768 Rodgers?
769 *The Chair. Aye.

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770 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

771 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone else seeking recognition to call
772 the roll?

773 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig is not recorded.

774 *Ms. Craig. Aye.

775 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

776 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone else seeking recognition for _ to
777 answer the roll?

778 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

779 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 26
780 ayes and 0 noes.

781 *Mr. Guthrie. With 26 ayes and 0 noes, the bill is
782 agreed to.

783 The chair will call up _ my notes here _ the chair will
784 call up H.R. 7218, and ask the clerk to report.

785 *The Clerk. H.R. 7218, a bill to amend title 3 of the
786 Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion
787 of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's
788 disease and related dementias, and for other purposes.

789 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
790 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for any
791 _ for amendment at any time.

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

792 So ordered.

793 [The bill follows:]

794

795 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

796

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797 *Mr. Guthrie. And the chair will recognize _ I will
798 recognize myself to speak on the bill.

799 Speaking in support of my legislation, the Building Our
800 Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's
801 Reauthorization Act, or BOLD Act, this legislation
802 reauthorizes programs to continue research into Alzheimer's
803 disease, investing caregiver support service including more
804 hands-on educational resources for those caregiving for their
805 loved ones, and help support local efforts to detect and
806 diagnose Alzheimer's disease sooner, especially for those in
807 rural and medically underserved communities.

808 According to the Alzheimer's Association, nearly seven
809 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's
810 disease, and the number is expected to increase. Dementia is
811 also one of the costliest conditions in society. The price
812 of health and long-term care is estimated to be 345 billion,
813 with around two-thirds of those individuals being Medicare or
814 Medicaid patients. This is in addition to the 18 billion
815 hours of unpaid help the 11.5 million caregivers provide each
816 provide each year, valued at nearly \$340 billion.

817 The emotional and financial toll this _ the disease
818 takes on family caregivers cannot be understated. About 40

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819 percent of these caregivers are estimated to make less than
820 \$50,000 a year.

821 Simply put, more work is needed to support patients and
822 their families combating this vicious disease. That is why I
823 am glad we are considering the BOLD Act today to accelerate
824 the cutting-edge research programs, provide continued support
825 for our families and caregivers, and advancing resources to
826 help detect and diagnose Alzheimer's disease as quickly as
827 possible.

828 The more we know about the disease, the sooner we will
829 be able to appropriately treat it, giving patients more
830 precious time with their loved ones and easing the
831 significant caregiver burdens have associated with
832 Alzheimer's and related dementias (sic). Thanks to the
833 innovative work being done by our private-sector partners,
834 this research and resources are especially necessary today at
835 the precipice of a true transformation of how we diagnose and
836 treat the disease. I look forward to continued progress in
837 ushering in a new era of innovation.

838 I want to thank Representative Tonko for his joining me
839 and reauthorizing these important programs.

840 And I will yield back. Does anyone else seek

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841 recognition to speak on the bill?

842 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?

843 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady from California seeks
844 recognition?

845 *Ms. Barragan. Yes, I move to strike the last word.

846 *Mr. Guthrie. You are recognized for five minutes.

847 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to
848 thank you for this legislation and our colleagues for working
849 on Alzheimer's issues on a bipartisan basis because, as we
850 all know, Alzheimer's is not a Democrat issue or a Republican
851 issue; it is an issue that affects all Americans.

852 And this particular bill, which will reauthorize the
853 BOLD Act and empower public health departments to continue to
854 improve brain health and support caregivers in their
855 communities, is something that is going to be super helpful.
856 As somebody who has a mother who has Alzheimer's, and
857 somebody who is also a caregiver which often requires me to
858 fly back and forth more often than not and miss very
859 important trips and meetings and events, it does take a toll.
860 And I can attest to that myself. So I am proud to support
861 this bill and efforts that we continue to support caregivers
862 across this country.

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863 Over 160,000 residents in Los Angeles County live with
864 Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to increase
865 by 150 percent by the year 2040. In 2023 the CDC announced
866 43 award recipients, the most in a single year since the bill
867 was signed into law, which included LA County. With these
868 funds, the county was able to launch LA BOLD, an initiative
869 that brought together stakeholders across multiple industries
870 to address dementia awareness and care. This includes a goal
871 to improve the local infrastructure that supports unpaid
872 family caregivers, which is critical to address the unique
873 needs of our diverse communities.

874 I strongly support this bipartisan legislation. I thank
875 all our colleagues for continuing to work on this important
876 issue.

877 And I yield back.

878 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you for your comments. I know you
879 are personally going through this. Is _

880 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?

881 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman from Ohio, for what purpose
882 do you seek recognition?

883 *Mr. Latta. To strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

884 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman is recognized.

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885 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

886 Unfortunately, I have seen firsthand how devastating
887 Alzheimer's and other dementias affect those who are
888 diagnosed with this horrible disease and how it also affects
889 their families. Lives drastically change as husbands, wives,
890 brothers, sisters, or children become caregivers for their
891 loved ones.

892 In Ohio, over 220,000 individuals suffer from
893 Alzheimer's, and it is estimated that about 1 in 3 seniors
894 die with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Tragically, 6.7
895 million Americans today suffer from this disease, with an
896 estimated 12.7 million by 2050.

897 It is long past due that we offer hope for those who are
898 suffering. That is why I would like to commend the
899 leadership of our subcommittee, our subcommittee chair, and
900 the gentleman from New York's 20th district for leading the
901 reauthorization of the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's
902 Reauthorization Act of 2024.

903 We need better earlier detection, assistance for those
904 affected, a treatment for those diagnosed, and, most
905 importantly, a cure. I look forward to supporting this
906 crucial piece of legislation, and encourage my colleagues to

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907 do so.

908 And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back the balance
909 of my time.

910 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you. Thank you for sharing your
911 stories, as well.

912 The gentleman yields back. Is there any further
913 discussion on the bill?

914 Seeing none, are there any bipartisan amendments?

915 Seeing none, are there any other amendments?

916 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
917 7218 to the full committee, and a roll call is requested.

918 The clerk will call the roll.

919 *The Clerk. Burgess?

920 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

921 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

922 Latta?

923 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

924 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

925 Griffith?

926 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

927 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

928 Bilirakis?

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929 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
930 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.
931 Bucshon?
932 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
933 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
934 Hudson?
935 [No response.]
936 *The Clerk. Carter?
937 [No response.]
938 *The Clerk. Dunn?
939 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
940 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.
941 Pence?
942 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
943 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
944 Crenshaw?
945 [No response.]
946 *The Clerk. Joyce?
947 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
948 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
949 Harshbarger?
950 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

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951 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
952 Miller-Meeks?
953 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
954 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
955 Obernolte?
956 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
957 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
958 Guthrie?
959 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
960 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
961 Eshoo?
962 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
963 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
964 Sarbanes?
965 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
966 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
967 Cardenas?
968 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
969 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
970 Ruiz?
971 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
972 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

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973 Dingell?
974 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
975 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
976 Kuster?
977 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
978 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
979 Kelly?
980 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
981 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
982 Barragan?
983 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
984 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
985 Blunt Rochester?
986 [No response.]
987 *The Clerk. Craig?
988 *Ms. Craig. Aye.
989 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.
990 Schrier?
991 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
992 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
993 Trahan?
994 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

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995 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
996 Pallone?
997 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
998 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
999 Rodgers?
1000 *The Chair. Aye.
1001 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
1002 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone seeking to answer the roll?
1003 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
1004 [Pause.]
1005 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there are 25
1006 ayes and 0 noes.
1007 *Mr. Guthrie. With 25 ayes and 0 noes, the bill is
1008 agreed to.
1009 The chair will now call up H.R. 4581, and ask the clerk
1010 to report.
1011 *The Clerk. H.R. 4581, a bill to amend title 5 of the
1012 Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and
1013 research, and for other purposes.
1014 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
1015 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1016 amendment at any point.

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

1017 So ordered.

1018 [The bill follows:]

1019

1020 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1021

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1022 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

1023 Are there any bipartisan amendments to the bill?

1024 Does the gentleman _ I believe there is an AINS to the
1025 bill.

1026 [Pause.]

1027 *Mr. Guthrie. Do you have an amendment?

1028 The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

1029 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an
1030 amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4581.

1031 *Mr. Guthrie. I will have the clerk report the
1032 amendment.

1033 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1034 H.R. 4581, offered by Mr. Burgess.

1035 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the reading of the
1036 amendment is dispensed with.

1037 [The amendment of Mr. Burgess follows:]

1038

1039 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1040

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

1041 *Mr. Guthrie. And the gentleman from Texas is
1042 recognized for five minutes.

1043 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This amendment
1044 will make a technical change by striking the findings
1045 sections of the bill.

1046 H.R. 4581, the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth
1047 Prevention Act, would expand the scope of the Maternal and
1048 Child Health Services Block Grant to include stillbirth
1049 prevention research and activities allowing for a more
1050 comprehensive approach to maternal and child health.

1051 Stillbirth does represent a significant aspect of
1052 reproductive health, and it must be addressed to ensure the
1053 well-being of both mothers and babies. Preventive measures,
1054 including research and activities to prevent stillbirths in
1055 the grant program, allows for the implementation of measures
1056 aimed at reducing the incidence of stillbirths. This is a
1057 proactive approach, and can help identify risk factors,
1058 develop interventions, and promote healthy pregnancies,
1059 ultimately leading to fewer stillbirths, better outcomes for
1060 families.

1061 And I urge adoption of the amendment and yield back.

1062 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Is there any

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1063 discussion of the amendment?

1064 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion on the
1065 amendment, the vote occurs on the amendment.

1066 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

1067 All those opposed, nay.

1068 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

1069 Are there any other amendments to the bill?

1070 Recognition to speak on the bill? The gentlelady from
1071 Illinois is recognized.

1072 *Ms. Kelly. I move to strike the last word.

1073 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady is recognized.

1074 *Ms. Kelly. Stillbirths affect 1 in 170 pregnancies,
1075 with over 20,000 babies born still every year in the U.S.
1076 Nevertheless, what is more disheartening is that studies show
1077 that nearly a fourth of these stillbirths are preventable,
1078 and the majority occur in what would otherwise be considered
1079 low-risk pregnancies.

1080 Furthermore, certain groups such as Black women,
1081 Medicaid recipients, and those living in rural areas share a
1082 disproportionate burden of these lives lost, highlighting the
1083 urgent need for targeted interventions and equitable access
1084 to care.

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1085 We have seen other industrialized nations, such as the
1086 UK and Australia, invest in focused stillbirth education and
1087 prevention efforts, which significantly decreased their rate
1088 in just a few years. We cannot sit complacently. We must
1089 act to better understand the cause of pre-term birth, what is
1090 causing this shocking increase, and what we can do to prevent
1091 pre-term birth to allow moms and babies the best start in
1092 life possible.

1093 These inequities in the maternal care system have a
1094 real-world impact, where maternity and newborn care account
1095 for large _ a large category of hospital payouts for most
1096 commercial insurers and state Medicaid programs. With
1097 Medicaid as a primary payer for 42 percent of births in the
1098 U.S., the Federal Government has a major responsibility for
1099 ensuring the quality and value of maternal newborn care.

1100 I am proud to cosponsor _ to be a cosponsor of
1101 Representative Hinson's bill, H.R. 4581, the Maternal and
1102 Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act, which calls for
1103 further evidence-based programs to reduce the incidents of
1104 stillbirth. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill
1105 and also the SHINE bill to ensure no mother has to go through
1106 these horrendous events of having their baby born still.

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1107 Additionally, I ask for unanimous consent to have a
1108 letter from the March of Dimes be submitted into record in
1109 support of H.R. 5012, the SHINE for Autumn Act, and H.R.
1110 4581, the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention
1111 Act.

1112 Thank you, and I yield back.

1113 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, so ordered.

1114

1115

1116 [The information follows:]

1117

1118 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1119

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

1120 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
1121 further discussion on the amendment?

1122 Then we have already adopted. So the question now _
1123 seeing no other people seeking recognition, the chair now _
1124 the question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 4581, as amended,
1125 to the full committee, and a roll call has been requested,
1126 and the clerk will call the roll.

1127 *The Clerk. Burgess?

1128 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

1129 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1130 Latta?

1131 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1132 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

1133 Griffith?

1134 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1135 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

1136 Bilirakis?

1137 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1138 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

1139 Bucshon?

1140 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1141 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

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

1142 Hudson?
1143 [No response.]
1144 *The Clerk. Carter?
1145 [No response.]
1146 *The Clerk. Dunn?
1147 [No response.]
1148 *The Clerk. Pence?
1149 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
1150 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
1151 Crenshaw?
1152 [No response.]
1153 *The Clerk. Joyce?
1154 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1155 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
1156 Harshbarger?
1157 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1158 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
1159 Miller-Meeks?
1160 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1161 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1162 Obernolte?
1163 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

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

1164 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
1165 Guthrie?
1166 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1167 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
1168 Eshoo?
1169 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
1170 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
1171 Sarbanes?
1172 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
1173 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
1174 Cardenas?
1175 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
1176 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
1177 Ruiz?
1178 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1179 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
1180 Dingell?
1181 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1182 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
1183 Kuster?
1184 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
1185 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

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

1186 Kelly?
1187 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1188 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
1189 Barragan?
1190 [No response.]
1191 *The Clerk. Blunt Rochester?
1192 [No response.]
1193 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1194 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
1195 Craig?
1196 *Ms. Craig. Aye.
1197 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.
1198 Schrier?
1199 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1200 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
1201 Trahan?
1202 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1203 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
1204 Pallone?
1205 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1206 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
1207 Rodgers?

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

1208 *The Chair. Aye.

1209 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

1210 *Mr. Guthrie. I know you called the roll twice. Are
1211 you properly _ how is the gentlelady from California
1212 recorded?

1213 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is recorded as aye.

1214 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye, okay, so I wanted to make sure you
1215 got that right.

1216 The gentleman from Florida, how is he recorded?

1217 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

1218 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

1219 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

1220 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone else seeking the roll call?
1221 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

1222 [Pause.]

1223 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there are 25
1224 ayes and 0 noes.

1225 *Mr. Guthrie. Twenty-five ayes and zero noes, the bill
1226 is agreed to.

1227 The chair calls up H.R. 4646, and asks the clerk to
1228 report.

1229 *The Clerk. H.R. 4646, a bill to reauthorize the Rural

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1230 Emergency Medical Service Training and Equipment Assistance
1231 Program, and for other purposes.

1232 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
1233 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1234 amendment at any point.

1235 So ordered.

1236 [The bill follows:]

1237

1238 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1239

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

1240 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

1241 The gentlelady from Iowa is recognized for five minutes
1242 to speak on the bill.

1243 [Pause.]

1244 *Mr. Guthrie. Were there any _ seeing no others
1245 speaking on the bill, so the gentlelady has an amendment at
1246 the desk. The clerk will report the amendment.

1247 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1248 H.R. 4646, offered by Mrs. Miller-Meeks.

1249 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the reading of the
1250 amendment is dispensed with.

1251 [The amendment of Mrs. Miller-Meeks follows:]

1252

1253 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1254

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

1255 *Mr. Guthrie. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
1256 minutes in support of her amendment.

1257 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I speak
1258 in support of my amendment in the nature of a substitute,
1259 which makes technical corrections to H.R. 4646, the
1260 Supporting and Improving Rural EMS needs, or SIREN Act.

1261 With medical costs rapidly increasing, many EMS
1262 providers are abandoning rural areas, and are instead only
1263 offering services in urban or suburban areas, further
1264 exacerbating access challenges already felt by rural
1265 Americans. According to the National Rural Health
1266 Association, roughly 53 percent of rural EMS agencies are
1267 staffed by volunteers, compared with just 14 percent in urban
1268 areas.

1269 This legislation became law in 2018, and helped support
1270 rural EMS departments through competitive grants. Recipients
1271 can use funds for various EMS and fire-related services such
1272 as PPE, power stretchers, and even ambulances. This critical
1273 legislation is necessary to alleviate the burden on rural
1274 health care workers, and I urge my colleagues to support my
1275 ANS and the underlying bill.

1276 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of

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1277 my time.

1278 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
1279 further discussion of the amendment?

1280 The gentleman from California is recognized on the
1281 amendment.

1282 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, I first want to thank Dr. Miller-Meeks
1283 for introducing this bill. This is very important for me, as
1284 an emergency medicine physician that has practiced pre-
1285 hospital care alongside paramedics and firemen and women.

1286 There are ambulance deserts throughout our country,
1287 especially in rural America. In my district sometimes it
1288 takes up to an hour to get to certain parts of my district.
1289 And we know in emergency medicine that time is life. Brain
1290 cells, cardiac cells have a short window of time to be
1291 revascularized during heart attacks or strokes. That can
1292 make the difference between permanent disability or even life
1293 and death.

1294 So making sure that every American in our country has
1295 access to emergency care immediately when they need it is
1296 vital and very important for all of us. And that is why I
1297 support the underlying bill, as well as these technical
1298 amendments offered by Congresswoman Miller-Meeks.

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

1299 And you want some time?

1300 And I yield my time to Congresswoman Dingell.

1301 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you.

1302 As co-chair of the Emergency Medical Services Caucus, or
1303 EMS Caucus, supporting our nation's EMS workers remains one
1304 of my top priorities. That is why I am proud to lead the
1305 SIREN Reauthorization Act with Representative David Joyce.
1306 And I appreciate this bill. I want to thank the chairman for
1307 including it as part of today's subcommittee markup.

1308 Housed within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
1309 Services Administration, SIREN grants help improve emergency
1310 medical services in rural communities. These grants help
1311 rural EMS agencies better train and recruit staff, acquire
1312 new equipment, and develop new ways to educate EMS personnel.

1313 EMS workers are the first to arrive at the scene of an
1314 emergency, and they have to quickly evaluate the situation
1315 and determine the best course of action for a patient in
1316 their most vulnerable and critical state. Across America's
1317 small towns, rural EMS agencies in particular are the
1318 critical lifeline to the health care system. So it is
1319 imperative that they have a Federal _ the Federal support
1320 they need to carry out this very important mission.

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1321 With this legislation to authorize _ reauthorize the
1322 SIREN program through 2029, we can expand upon our efforts to
1323 better assist these hometown heroes, and they are our
1324 hometown heroes. I urge all of my colleagues to support this
1325 bill.

1326 And I guess I am _ yield _ no. I yield back to you?

1327 *Mr. Ruiz. And does anybody else want my two minutes?

1328 Okay, then I yield back.

1329 *Mr. Guthrie. You yield back? The gentleman yields
1330 back, Dr. Ruiz yields back. Is there any further discussion
1331 on the amendment?

1332 Seeing none, if there are no further discussion, the
1333 vote occurs on the amendment.

1334 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

1335 All those opposed, nay.

1336 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

1337 Are there any other amendments to the bill?

1338 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
1339 4646, as amended, to the full committee.

1340 All those in favor _ well, the roll call has been
1341 requested, so the clerk will call the roll.

1342 *The Clerk. Burgess?

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1343 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

1344 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1345 Latta?

1346 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1347 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

1348 Griffith?

1349 [No response.]

1350 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?

1351 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1352 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

1353 Bucshon?

1354 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1355 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

1356 Hudson?

1357 [No response.]

1358 *The Clerk. Carter?

1359 [No response.]

1360 *The Clerk. Dunn?

1361 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

1362 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

1363 Pence?

1364 [No response.]

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

1365 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
1366 [No response.]
1367 *The Clerk. Joyce?
1368 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1369 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
1370 Harshbarger?
1371 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1372 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
1373 Miller-Meeks?
1374 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1375 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1376 Obernolte?
1377 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
1378 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
1379 Guthrie?
1380 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1381 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
1382 Eshoo?
1383 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
1384 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
1385 Sarbanes?
1386 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

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1387 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
1388 Cardenas?
1389 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
1390 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
1391 Ruiz?
1392 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1393 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
1394 Dingell?
1395 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1396 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
1397 Kuster?
1398 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
1399 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
1400 Kelly?
1401 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1402 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
1403 Barragan?
1404 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1405 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
1406 Blunt Rochester?
1407 [No response.]
1408 *The Clerk. Craig?

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1409 [No response.]

1410 *The Clerk. Schrier?

1411 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1412 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

1413 Trahan?

1414 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

1415 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

1416 Pallone?

1417 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1418 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

1419 Rodgers?

1420 *The Chair. Aye.

1421 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

1422 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone seeking to be _ how is Mr. Pence

1423 recorded?

1424 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

1425 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1426 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

1427 *Ms. Craig. How is Craig recorded?

1428 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig is not recorded.

1429 *Ms. Craig. Aye.

1430 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

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

1431 *Mr. Guthrie. Are there any further people for the roll
1432 call?

1433 Seeing none, the clerk will call the roll. The clerk
1434 will report, I am sorry.

1435 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 24
1436 ayes and 0 noes.

1437 *Mr. Guthrie. Twenty-four ayes and zero noes, the bill
1438 is agreed to.

1439 The chair calls up H.R. 6160, and asks the clerk to
1440 report.

1441 *The Clerk. H.R. 6160, a bill to amend the Public
1442 Health Service Act to reauthorize a lifespan respite care
1443 program.

1444 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
1445 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1446 amendment at any time, at any point.

1447 So ordered.

1448 [The bill follows:]

1449

1450 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1451

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

1452 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

1453 *Mr. Cardenas. Amendment.

1454 *Mr. Guthrie. You have an amendment? You want to _
1455 does anyone _ recognition of the bill?

1456 The gentleman from California is recognized for his
1457 amendment.

1458 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
1459 amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk _

1460 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report.

1461 *Mr. Cardenas. H.R. 6160 SCR AINS 01.

1462 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report the amendment.

1463 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1464 H.R. 6160, offered by Mr. Cardenas.

1465 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the reading of the
1466 amendment is dispensed with.

1467 [The amendment of Mr. Cardenas follows:]

1468

1469 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1470

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

1471 *Mr. Guthrie. And the gentleman from California is
1472 recognized for five minutes in support of his amendment.

1473 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1474 This AINS makes small technical changes to the
1475 underlying bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

1476 When we discussed this bill in a hearing last month, I
1477 mentioned the essential role that uncompensated caregivers
1478 play in our care systems. When a loved one gets sick or
1479 struggles with a disability, their care often falls on that
1480 person's community. As I said before, whether it is a
1481 friend, a family member, or another uncompensated caregiver,
1482 providing quality support is a 24/7 job. That is why I am
1483 proud to co-lead with _ the bill _ the Lifespan Respite Care
1484 Reauthorization Act, along with Representative Molinaro.

1485 This bipartisan bill supports the health and well-being
1486 of family caregivers by reauthorizing the Lifespan Respite
1487 Care Program. There are more than 53 million family
1488 caregivers in the United States. While it can be very
1489 rewarding, it also can be emotionally and physically
1490 challenging.

1491 Respite care, which is the opportunity to entrust care
1492 of loved ones to someone else temporarily, is one of the most

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1493 frequently reported unmet needs of caregivers. By providing
1494 temporary relief to caregivers, respite care helps to reduce
1495 the mental stress and physical health issues that caregivers
1496 might experience. In doing so, respite care also decreases
1497 the need for professional long-term care, which allows
1498 individuals who require care to remain at home.

1499 This is a good program that provides very real,
1500 necessary help to those who are often selflessly caring for
1501 their loved ones day in and day out. I urge my colleagues to
1502 support the AINS and the underlying bill.

1503 And with that I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1504 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1505 discussion on the amendment?

1506 Seeing no further discussion on the amendment, the
1507 question _ if there is no further discussion, the vote occurs
1508 on the amendment.

1509 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

1510 All those opposed, nay.

1511 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it, and the
1512 amendment is agreed to.

1513 Are there any other amendments?

1514 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.

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1515 6160, as amended, to the full committee, and a roll call has
1516 been requested, and the clerk will call the roll.

1517 *The Clerk. Burgess?

1518 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

1519 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1520 Latta?

1521 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1522 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

1523 Griffith?

1524 [No response.]

1525 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?

1526 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1527 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

1528 Bucshon?

1529 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1530 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

1531 Hudson?

1532 [No response.]

1533 *The Clerk. Carter?

1534 *Mr. Carter. Aye.

1535 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

1536 Dunn?

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

1537 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
1538 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.
1539 Pence?
1540 [No response.]
1541 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
1542 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
1543 *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.
1544 Joyce?
1545 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1546 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
1547 Harshbarger?
1548 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1549 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
1550 Miller-Meeks?
1551 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1552 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1553 Oberholte?
1554 [No response.]
1555 *The Clerk. Guthrie?
1556 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1557 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
1558 Eshoo?

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1559 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
1560 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
1561 Sarbanes?
1562 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
1563 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
1564 Cardenas?
1565 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
1566 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
1567 Ruiz?
1568 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1569 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
1570 Dingell?
1571 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1572 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
1573 Kuster?
1574 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
1575 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
1576 Kelly?
1577 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1578 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
1579 Barragan?
1580 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

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

1581 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
1582 Blunt Rochester?
1583 [No response.]
1584 *The Clerk. Craig?
1585 [No response.]
1586 *The Clerk. Schrier?
1587 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1588 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
1589 Trahan?
1590 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1591 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
1592 Pallone?
1593 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1594 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
1595 Rodgers?
1596 [No response.]
1597 *The Clerk. Rodgers?
1598 *The Chair. Aye.
1599 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
1600 *Mr. Guthrie. How is Mr. Pence recorded?
1601 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.
1602 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

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

1603 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

1604 *Mr. Guthrie. How is Mr. Obernolte recorded?

1605 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte is not recorded.

1606 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

1607 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

1608 *Mr. Guthrie. Is anyone seeking recognition for _ to
1609 answer the roll call?

1610 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

1611 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 25
1612 ayes and 0 noes.

1613 *Mr. Guthrie. With 25 ayes and 0 noes, the bill is
1614 agreed to.

1615 The chair calls up 6960, and asks the clerk to report.

1616 *The Clerk. H.R. 6960, a bill to amend the Public
1617 Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical
1618 Services for Children Program.

1619 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
1620 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1621 amendment at any time.

1622 [The bill follows:]

1623

1624 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1625

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

1626 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

1627 Does the gentleman want to seek recognition on the bill,
1628 or offer an amendment?

1629 Are there any _

1630 *Mr. Carter. Recognition.

1631 *Mr. Guthrie. Oh, no amendments, that is right. The
1632 gentleman is recognized. I am sorry.

1633 *Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
1634 the last word.

1635 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman is recognized.

1636 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, in Congress, and especially
1637 in this committee, we are focused on increasing the
1638 accessibility, affordability, and quality of health care for
1639 all patients, including children. That is why I am pleased
1640 to see that my bipartisan bill, the Emergency Medical
1641 Services for Children Reauthorization Act, is included in
1642 this markup.

1643 This bill reauthorizes grants that focus on addressing
1644 the unique needs of children in emergency medical systems
1645 with the ultimate goal of reducing the prevalence of
1646 morbidity and mortality in children that may occur as a
1647 result of acute illness and severe injury.

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1648 Mr. Chairman, I want to ask unanimous consent to submit
1649 a letter from more than 20 organizations representing
1650 patients, providers, hospitals, paramedics, and emergency
1651 medical technicians in support of this bill.

1652 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, so ordered.

1653 [The information follows:]

1654

1655 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1656

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1657 *Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For nearly four
1658 decades, the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program
1659 has been the only Federal grant program specifically focused
1660 on addressing the needs of children in emergency medical
1661 systems.

1662 As we know, children have special health care needs.
1663 Whether children require emergency care following a car crash
1664 or fall ill in the middle of the night with nowhere else to
1665 turn, our emergency medical system needs to have staff
1666 trained to treat children. A major part of that is providing
1667 the resources to equip health care professionals with the
1668 right-sized medical tools.

1669 As a pharmacist, I understand how critical it is that
1670 children receive care that is specialized to their unique
1671 needs. That is why I am proud to be leading the
1672 reauthorization of the Emergency Medical Services for
1673 Children Program, which is proven to _ which has proven to be
1674 an effective approach for saving America's children.

1675 I would like to thank Representative Castor, Dr. Joyce,
1676 and Dr. Schrier for working with me on this legislation, and
1677 I ask all of my colleagues to support this bill.

1678 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the remainder

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1679 of my time.

1680 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you.

1681 The gentleman yields back. Does anyone seek _ Dr. Ruiz,
1682 you are recognized on the amendment _ or, excuse me, on the
1683 bill.

1684 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, I also want to express my support for
1685 H.R. 6960, the Emergency Medical Services for Children
1686 Reauthorization Act, and I want to thank Republicans
1687 Congressmen Carter, Joyce, and Democrats Castor and Dr.
1688 Schrier, who is a pediatrician who knows very well the
1689 importance of pediatric care, for introducing this very
1690 important bill.

1691 More importantly, I want to introduce the men and women
1692 that are out there providing pre-hospital care in emergency
1693 situations for the millions of children who need EMS care.
1694 This bill is really going to help them get the resources they
1695 need and the confidence to better care for kids.

1696 There is nothing like taking care of a really sick child
1697 that puts an internist's anxiety at the highest level,
1698 because kids are not little adults. They have differences in
1699 the way that we approach them, especially during emergency
1700 situations.

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1701 And I am thinking about my good friend, Dr. Peter
1702 Antevy, who is a pediatric emergency physician and EMS
1703 director out in Florida who developed an Antevy way of
1704 quickly helping paramedics determine the IV fluids needs for
1705 kids that _ it is brilliant. You can tell just by looking at
1706 your _ counting your fingers and the age of the child.

1707 It is really, really remarkable stuff that has really
1708 led to better outcomes because it is difficult. Sometimes it
1709 is difficult for doctors who take care of adults to remember
1710 the formula for fluids for kids. Imagine what it is for
1711 paramedics out in the field. So this is the type of
1712 legislation that will empower folks like Dr. Peter Antevy and
1713 all the pre-hospital care providers out in the field to
1714 better provide care for kids, our most precious treasure.

1715 And with that I want to urge everybody to support this
1716 bill. And does anybody on our side want the rest of my time?
1717 Would you like it?

1718 I yield to Dr. Schrier.

1719 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Dr. Ruiz. I will see if I can
1720 get this in in two minutes, in two-and-a-half minutes.

1721 I want to thank our chair and ranking member for working
1722 hard to move this important legislation.

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1723 The Emergency Medical Services for Children
1724 Reauthorization Act is near and dear to my heart. I am a
1725 pediatrician. I have seen in clinic how quickly a child can
1726 become medically unstable. And during training, of course, I
1727 worked in the emergency department taking care of these acute
1728 _ we say they are krumping children and however scary it can
1729 be, in these dire straits it is so much easier to manage that
1730 crisis in a controlled setting.

1731 And most people in the emergency medical setting outside
1732 of the hospital take care of adults, so they don't get as
1733 much practice with children, and that is where we can help.
1734 So I am so proud to co-lead this reauthorization with
1735 Representatives Carter, Castor, and Joyce.

1736 This program supports research, training, grant funding,
1737 and data collection that has resulted in better emergency
1738 care and a decline in pediatric injury-related deaths by over
1739 40 percent since the program began in 1984.

1740 I will be voting yes today so we can continue to save
1741 the lives of children, and I encourage all of my colleagues
1742 to do so, as well.

1743 And I yield back to Dr. Ruiz.

1744 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, and I yield back to the chairman.

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

1745 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
1746 further discussion?

1747 Seeing none, are there any bipartisan amendments?

1748 Seeing none, are there any other amendments?

1749 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
1750 6960 to the full committee, and a roll call has been
1751 requested, so the clerk will call the roll.

1752 *The Clerk. Burgess?

1753 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

1754 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

1755 Latta?

1756 *The Clerk. Griffith?

1757 [No response.]

1758 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?

1759 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1760 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

1761 Bucshon?

1762 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1763 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

1764 Hudson?

1765 [No response.]

1766 *The Clerk. Carter?

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

1767 *Mr. Carter. Aye.
1768 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.
1769 Dunn?
1770 *The Clerk. Pence?
1771 [No response.]
1772 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
1773 [No response.]
1774 *The Clerk. Joyce?
1775 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
1776 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
1777 Harshbarger?
1778 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1779 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
1780 Miller-Meeks?
1781 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1782 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1783 Obernolte?
1784 [No response.]
1785 *The Clerk. Guthrie?
1786 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
1787 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
1788 Eshoo?

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

1789 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
1790 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
1791 Sarbanes?
1792 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
1793 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
1794 Cardenas?
1795 [No response.]
1796 *The Clerk. Ruiz?
1797 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1798 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
1799 Dingell?
1800 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1801 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
1802 Kuster?
1803 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
1804 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
1805 Kelly?
1806 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
1807 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
1808 Barragan?
1809 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1810 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.

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

1811 Blunt Rochester?
1812 [No response.]
1813 *The Clerk. Craig?
1814 *Ms. Craig. Aye.
1815 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.
1816 Schrier?
1817 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1818 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
1819 Trahan?
1820 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1821 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
1822 Pallone?
1823 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1824 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
1825 Rodgers?
1826 *The Chair. Aye.
1827 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
1828 *Mr. Guthrie. How is Mr. Latta recorded?
1829 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
1830 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1831 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
1832 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Pence?

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

1833 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

1834 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

1835 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

1836 *Mr. Guthrie. Is anyone seeking to be recognized for
1837 the roll call?

1838 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

1839 [Pause.]

1840 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 22
1841 ayes and 0 noes.

1842 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Dunn, are you recorded?

1843 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

1844 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

1845 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

1846 *Mr. Guthrie. Just in time. The clerk will report.

1847 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 23
1848 ayes and 0 noes.

1849 *Mr. Guthrie. With 23 ayes and 0 noes, the bill is
1850 agreed to.

1851 The chair will _ calls up H.R. 7153, and asks the clerk
1852 to report.

1853 *The Clerk. H.R. 7153, a bill to reauthorize the Dr.
1854 Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and for

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1855 other _

1856 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
1857 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
1858 amendment at any point.

1859 So ordered.

1860 [The bill follows:]

1861

1862 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1863

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

1864 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

1865 The gentlelady from Iowa is recognized to speak on the
1866 bill.

1867 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
1868 last word.

1869 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady is recognized.

1870 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. I am glad to see H.R. 7153, Dr.
1871 Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization
1872 Act, included in today's markup.

1873 According to the Heroes Foundation, more than 400
1874 physicians die each year by suicide, and rates of physician
1875 suicide differ by specialty. Notably the original Dr. Lorna
1876 Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act that is currently
1877 law included section 764, programs to promote mental health
1878 among health care professional workforce, to the Public
1879 Service Health Service Act. Under this section, HHS is
1880 authorized to award three-year grants and contracts to health
1881 care entities to establish or enhance evidence-based or
1882 evidence-informed programs dedicated to improving mental
1883 health and resilience in the profession.

1884 With increasing rates of physician violence, burnout,
1885 violence in the workplace directed at health care providers,

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1886 and existing workforce challenges, it is important for
1887 Congress to advocate for solutions to bolster America's
1888 medical professionals.

1889 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I urge my colleagues to
1890 support this legislation, and I yield back.

1891 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady yields back. Does the
1892 gentlelady from Michigan seek recognition to speak on the
1893 bill?

1894 *Mrs. Dingell. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
1895 word.

1896 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady is recognized.

1897 *Mrs. Dingell. I am grateful that Dr. Lorna Breen
1898 Health Care Provider Protection Act, which is legislation I
1899 am leading alongside Representatives Wild, Carter, and
1900 Kiggans, is included as part of today's markup.

1901 Health care workers are the backbone of communities
1902 across America, and they work tirelessly to save patient
1903 lives every day, even at their own personal risk. But given
1904 the increasing stressors of the job, which are especially
1905 compounded in times of crisis, like the coronavirus pandemic,
1906 health care workers are experiencing rising rates of anxiety,
1907 stress, uncertainty, burnout, and lack of sleep. We must do

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1908 more to support these workers who have dedicated their lives
1909 to keeping our communities healthy and safe, and that is why
1910 the legislation we are considering today is so critical.

1911 The legislation is named after Dr. Lorna Breen, who was
1912 a very dedicated, caring, compassionate physician in New
1913 York, who unfortunately died by suicide in April 2020, just a
1914 few months after COVID-19 public health emergency was
1915 declared, because she was exhausted and anxious about the
1916 patients she was taking care of.

1917 The bill authorized important funding to support
1918 organizations in implementing evidence-informed strategies to
1919 reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, mental health
1920 conditions, and substance use disorders. The work is making
1921 a difference, and it is on us to reauthorize this program to
1922 ensure we can expand upon the progress we have already made.

1923 I also encourage my colleagues to help rip the Band-Aid
1924 off the stigma of mental health. What our health care
1925 workers went through during COVID was unbelievable. I had a
1926 nurse that I know in my own district that _ it is true,
1927 though _ committed suicide. And then I started talking about
1928 it, and the hospital demanded a Chamber take down my remarks.
1929 And I went back and said to the hospital, "What are you

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1930 doing? Support your health care workers.'` That is what we
1931 are doing here today.

1932 We owe it to Dr. Breen, her family, and every other
1933 health care worker to pass this reauthorization without
1934 delay. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

1935 And would you like me to yield to you, Dr. Ruiz?

1936 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, thank you.

1937 I really appreciate the comments by Congresswoman
1938 Dingell in recognition of the importance to see our
1939 physicians as human beings. Too often physicians are
1940 portrayed as robots who are out to perform a duty, and they
1941 are, they are out to perform a duty, and they put others
1942 above self in many, many circumstances. They don't eat
1943 normally, they don't sleep normally. They don't have normal
1944 relationships. As you know, there is a high divorce rate in
1945 _ amongst physicians because they are always sacrificing for
1946 the betterment of others.

1947 And in policy, often times doctors are castigated as the
1948 villains out to scam a system or not. But in reality,
1949 doctors are the heroes where _ and during COVID-19, under an
1950 enormous amount of stress, away from family, stress about
1951 bringing COVID home to the family, stress about seeing the

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1952 amount of deaths that often times military physicians who
1953 went to cover for in hospitals said they saw more death and
1954 suffering in urban hospitals during COVID-19 than they did in
1955 their entire military career.

1956 And so we really need to address this with the passage
1957 of this bill to provide the resources for physicians to heal
1958 themselves with other therapists, mental health therapists,
1959 so that they perform at optimal performance to take care of
1960 others, and so I thank my colleagues who introduced this
1961 bill.

1962 And I yield back my time to Mrs. Dingell.

1963 *Mrs. Dingell. And I yield _

1964 *Mr. Bucshon. Will the gentlelady yield?

1965 *Mrs. Dingell. Oh, yes. Most certainly.

1966 *Mr. Bucshon. Yes, I just want to associate myself with
1967 Dr. Ruiz's comments. Basically, everything he said.

1968 Health care providers were on the front lines during
1969 COVID, they are on the front lines every day, and I think, in
1970 the long run, we also need to try to address the fee schedule
1971 and physician provider reimbursement in the long run.

1972 So I yield back.

1973 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1974 I also _ the physicians are critical. It is also the
1975 other health care workers, the nurses and the _ we need to
1976 thank them all. We just take them for granted. And they are
1977 heroes for us every single day.

1978 Thank you, and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1979 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady yields back. The
1980 gentleman recognizes Mr. Carter from Georgia for five minutes
1981 to speak on the bill.

1982 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
1983 word.

1984 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman is recognized.

1985 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health
1986 Care Provider Protection Act is landmark legislation
1987 supporting health workers' mental health and well-being.
1988 Since its passage in 2022, the Lorna Breen Act has enabled 44
1989 organizations, including the American Society of Health
1990 System pharmacists, to implement evidence-informed strategies
1991 that reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, mental health
1992 conditions, and substance use disorders.

1993 Unfortunately, the pharmacy workforce, like the rest of
1994 the health care workforce, is experiencing alarming rates of
1995 occupational burnout, moral injury, and stress.

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1996 This legislation has also created a national campaign
1997 which gives health care leaders evidence-informed solutions
1998 to reduce health worker burnout, sustain well-being, and
1999 build a system where health workers thrive.

2000 But this is only scratching the surface. In October of
2001 2023 the CDC released its Vital Signs report identifying a
2002 mental health crisis among health workers. The Lorna Breen
2003 Act is a lifeline for health workers, offering resources to
2004 address the mental health challenges they face.

2005 In addition to widening its reach to more hospitals, the
2006 reauthorization of the Lorna Breen Act also focuses on
2007 reducing the administrative burden for health workers
2008 everywhere.

2009 I encourage my colleagues to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna
2010 Breen Act _ Health Care Provider Protection Act to ensure our
2011 health care workforce receives the support they need.

2012 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

2013 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
2014 discussion on the bill?

2015 Are there any bipartisan amendments on the bill?

2016 Seeing none, are there any other amendments on the bill?

2017 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.

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2018 7153 to the full committee, and a roll call has been
2019 requested. The clerk will call the roll.

2020 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2021 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

2022 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2023 Latta?

2024 [No response.]

2025 *The Clerk. Griffith?

2026 [No response.]

2027 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?

2028 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

2029 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

2030 Bucshon?

2031 [No response.]

2032 *The Clerk. Hudson?

2033 [No response.]

2034 *The Clerk. Carter?

2035 *Mr. Carter. Aye.

2036 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

2037 Dunn?

2038 [No response.]

2039

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

2040 *The Clerk. Pence?
2041 [No response.]
2042 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
2043 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
2044 *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.
2045 Joyce?
2046 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
2047 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
2048 Harshbarger?
2049 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
2050 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
2051 Miller-Meeks?
2052 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
2053 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
2054 Obernolte?
2055 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
2056 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
2057 Guthrie?
2058 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
2059 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
2060 Eshoo?
2061 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

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2062 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
2063 Sarbanes?
2064 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2065 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
2066 Cardenas?
2067 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
2068 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
2069 Ruiz?
2070 [No response.]
2071 *The Clerk. Dingell?
2072 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2073 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
2074 Kuster?
2075 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
2076 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
2077 Kelly?
2078 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2079 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
2080 Barragan?
2081 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2082 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
2083 Blunt Rochester?

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

2084 [No response.]

2085 *The Clerk. Craig?

2086 *Ms. Craig. Aye.

2087 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

2088 Schrier?

2089 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2090 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

2091 Trahan?

2092 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2093 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

2094 Pallone?

2095 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2096 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2097 Rodgers?

2098 *The Chair. Aye.

2099 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

2100 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone _ how is Mr. Dunn recorded?

2101 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn.

2102 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

2103 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

2104 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Pence?

2105 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.

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

2106 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Pence?

2107 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

2108 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

2109 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Latta?

2110 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2111 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

2112 *Mr. Guthrie. Dr. Ruiz?

2113 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

2114 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

2115 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone else seeking recognition to answer
2116 the roll call?

2117 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

2118 [Pause.]

2119 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 25
2120 ayes and 0 noes.

2121 *Mr. Guthrie. With 25 ayes and 0 noes, the bill is
2122 agreed to.

2123 The chair calls up H.R. 7251, and asks the clerk to
2124 report.

2125 *The Clerk. H.R. 7251, a bill to amend the Public
2126 Health Service Act to reauthorize certain poison control
2127 programs.

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

2128 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
2129 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2130 amendment at any point.

2131 So ordered.

2132 [The bill follows:]

2133

2134 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2135

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

2136 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

2137 Does anyone have _ are there any bipartisan amendments
2138 to the bill?

2139 The gentleman from Pennsylvania to offer his amendment.

2140 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

2141 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report.

2142 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
2143 H.R. 7251, offered by Mr. Joyce.

2144 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the reading of the
2145 amendment is dispensed with.

2146 [The amendment of Mr. Joyce follows:]

2147

2148 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2149

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

2150 *Mr. Guthrie. And the gentleman from Pennsylvania is
2151 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

2152 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Today I am pleased
2153 that we are considering H.R. 7251, a bill I helped introduce
2154 which would reauthorize funding for poison control centers.

2155 Continued support for these centers is critical to
2156 ensuring individuals and families have ready access to
2157 assistance when facing accidental poisoning or toxic
2158 exposure-related emergencies.

2159 I would like to thank Representative Chavez-DeRemer, the
2160 lead of this bill, as well as co-leads Representative Davis
2161 and Representative Cherfilus-McCormick for their work on this
2162 legislation.

2163 I would also like to thank Representative Tonko and
2164 Representative Carter for their support of this measure, as
2165 well.

2166 This reauthorization will enable poison control centers
2167 to remain fully staffed by experienced professionals. These
2168 experts help save lives through their depth of knowledge and
2169 their prompt response during emergencies. When time is of
2170 the essence, the services of poison control centers and their
2171 staff is available to and relied upon by Americans and health

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2172 care providers all across our country. As a member of the
2173 Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I am glad to see
2174 continued work on this issue, which underscores the urgency
2175 of reauthorizing these centers.

2176 This AINS simply updates the dates of the underlying
2177 bill to reauthorize these important programs through fiscal
2178 year 2029, allowing poison control centers to continue their
2179 important work in the communities where they serve.

2180 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and yield
2181 back the balance of my remaining time.

2182 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
2183 seeking recognition for discussion on the amendment?

2184 If there is no further discussion on the amendment, the
2185 vote occurs on the amendment.

2186 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

2187 Those opposed, nay.

2188 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

2189 Are there any _ are there bipartisan amendments?

2190 Any other amendments?

2191 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
2192 7251, as amended, to the full committee.

2193 All those in favor _ the clerk will call the roll. A

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

2194 roll call has been requested. The clerk will call the roll.

2195 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2196 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

2197 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2198 Latta?

2199 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2200 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2201 Griffith?

2202 [No response.]

2203 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?

2204 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

2205 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

2206 Bucshon?

2207 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

2208 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2209 Hudson?

2210 [No response.]

2211 *The Clerk. Carter?

2212 [No response.]

2213 *The Clerk. Dunn?

2214 [No response.]

2215 *The Clerk. Pence?

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

2216 [No response.]

2217 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?

2218 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

2219 *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

2220 Joyce?

2221 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

2222 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

2223 Harshbarger?

2224 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

2225 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

2226 Miller-Meeks?

2227 [No response.]

2228 *The Clerk. Obernolte?

2229 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

2230 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

2231 Guthrie?

2232 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2233 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

2234 Eshoo?

2235 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

2236 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

2237 Sarbanes?

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

2238 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2239 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
2240 Cardenas?
2241 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
2242 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
2243 Ruiz?
2244 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2245 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
2246 Dingell?
2247 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2248 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
2249 Kuster?
2250 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
2251 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
2252 Kelly?
2253 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2254 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
2255 Barragan?
2256 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2257 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
2258 Blunt Rochester?
2259 [No response.]

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

2260 *The Clerk. Craig?
2261 *Ms. Craig. Aye.
2262 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.
2263 Schrier?
2264 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2265 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
2266 Trahan?
2267 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
2268 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
2269 Pallone?
2270 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2271 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
2272 Rodgers?
2273 [No response.]
2274 *Mr. Guthrie. Dr. Miller-Meeks, how is she recorded?
2275 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.
2276 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
2277 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
2278 *Mr. Guthrie. Mr. Pence?
2279 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
2280 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
2281 *Mr. Guthrie. Ranking Member Pallone?

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

2282 *The Clerk. Pallone is not recorded.

2283 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2284 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2285 *Mr. Guthrie. Anyone seeking to answer the roll call?

2286 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

2287 [Pause.]

2288 *The Clerk. Chair Guthrie, on that vote there were 23
2289 ayes and 0 noes.

2290 *Mr. Guthrie. With 23 ayes and 0 nays, the bill is
2291 agreed to.

2292 The chair calls up H.R. 7224, and asks the clerk to
2293 report.

2294 *The Clerk. H.R. 7224, a bill to amend the Public
2295 Service _ Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop,
2296 Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training _

2297 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
2298 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2299 amendment at any point.

2300 So ordered.

2301 [The bill follows:]

2302

2303 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2304

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

2305 *Mr. Guthrie. Is anyone seeking recognition on the
2306 bill?

2307 Mr. Cardenas, you are recognized to speak on the bill
2308 for five minutes.

2309 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not a
2310 physician, but I would like to strike the last word.

2311 [Laughter.]

2312 *Mr. Cardenas. I will keep my remarks brief, but I do
2313 want to quickly discuss the value of the Stop, Observe, Ask,
2314 and Respond and Health Wellness Training Program.

2315 This program ensures that our health care providers at
2316 all levels are adept at identifying and assisting victims of
2317 human trafficking, and the program has already shown great
2318 promise. In fact, over 91 percent of training participants
2319 indicated they had at least a high confidence that they could
2320 identify and respond to human trafficking. This common-sense
2321 bill extends this key program for our health care workforce
2322 and providers, and hopes for _ excuse me, which provides hope
2323 for victims of these horrible crimes.

2324 I also want to thank my colleagues, Representatives
2325 Cohen, Wagner, and Carter for co-leading this bill, and I
2326 urge members of the committee to support this legislation and

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2327 vote aye on this legislation.

2328 With that I yield back.

2329 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
2330 else seeking recognition to speak on the bill?

2331 Seeing none, the vote now occurs on the bill.

2332 Are there _ first of all, are there any amendments to
2333 the bill?

2334 Seeing none, the vote now occurs on the bill. A roll
2335 call has been requested, so the clerk will call the roll.

2336 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2337 *Mr. Burgess. Aye.

2338 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2339 Latta?

2340 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2341 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2342 Griffith?

2343 [No response.]

2344 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?

2345 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

2346 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

2347 Bucshon?

2348 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

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

2349 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2350 Hudson?

2351 [No response.]

2352 *The Clerk. Carter?

2353 [No response.]

2354 *The Clerk. Dunn?

2355 [No response.]

2356 *The Clerk. Pence?

2357 [No response.]

2358 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?

2359 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

2360 *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.

2361 Joyce?

2362 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

2363 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

2364 Harshbarger?

2365 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

2366 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

2367 Miller-Meeks?

2368 [No response.]

2369 *The Clerk. Obernolte?

2370 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

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

2371 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
2372 Guthrie?
2373 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
2374 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
2375 Eshoo?
2376 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
2377 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
2378 Sarbanes?
2379 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2380 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
2381 Cardenas?
2382 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
2383 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
2384 Ruiz?
2385 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2386 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
2387 Dingell?
2388 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2389 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
2390 Kuster?
2391 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
2392 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

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

2393 Kelly?
2394 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2395 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
2396 Barragan?
2397 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2398 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
2399 Blunt Rochester?
2400 [No response.]
2401 *The Clerk. Craig?
2402 *Ms. Craig. Aye.
2403 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.
2404 Schrier?
2405 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2406 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
2407 Trahan?
2408 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
2409 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
2410 Pallone?
2411 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2412 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
2413 Rodgers?
2414 [No response.]

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

2415 *Mr. Bucshon. [Presiding] How is Mr. Pence recorded?
2416 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.
2417 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
2418 *Mr. Bucshon. How is the chairwoman recorded?
2419 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
2420 Chair Rodgers is not recorded.
2421 *The Chair. Aye.
2422 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
2423 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Mrs. Miller-Meeks recorded?
2424 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.
2425 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
2426 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
2427 *Mr. Bucshon. Anyone else seeking recognition to vote?
2428 Seeing none, the clerk will report.
2429 *The Clerk. Vice Chair Bucshon, on that vote there were
2430 24 ayes and 0 noes.
2431 *Mr. Bucshon. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed
2432 to.
2433 The chair now calls up H.R. 6829, and asks the clerk to
2434 report.
2435 *The Clerk. H.R. 6829, a bill to amend the Public
2436 Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and

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

2437 dissemination of cardiomyopathy education _

2438 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the first reading of
2439 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2440 amendment at any point.

2441 So ordered.

2442 [The bill follows:]

2443

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

2445

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

2446 *Mr. Bucshon. Is anyone seeking recognition on the
2447 bill?

2448 Are there any amendments to the bill?

2449 I recognize Mr. Pallone, the ranking member.

2450 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
2451 desk, Pallone 25.

2452 *Mr. Bucshon. The clerk will report the amendment.

2453 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
2454 H.R. 6829, offered by Mr. Pallone of New Jersey. Strike
2455 all _

2456 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the reading of the
2457 amendment is dispensed with.

2458 [The amendment of Mr. Pallone follows:]

2459

2460 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2461

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

2462 *Mr. Bucshon. And the gentleman from New Jersey is
2463 recognized for five minutes in support of the amendment.

2464 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
2465 strike the last word and speak in favor of my amendment in
2466 the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6829, the Cardiomyopathy
2467 Health Education Awareness Research and Trainings in School
2468 Act, or HEARTS Act, of 2023.

2469 And my amendment authorizes public awareness activities
2470 and research into cardiomyopathy for a 5-year period
2471 beginning in 2025. It incorporates the bipartisan work of my
2472 colleagues, Representatives Cherfilus-McCormick and Posey, by
2473 including a provision to direct the Secretary of Health and
2474 Human Services to award grants to elementary and secondary
2475 schools partnered with a non-profit health care organization
2476 to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote
2477 defibrillation access.

2478 According to recent data, an estimated 23 states have
2479 AED school requirements with varying degrees of specificity
2480 regarding mandates on whether schools must have AEDs on
2481 campus and provide the necessary training on their use.

2482 And finally, my amendment also incorporates agency
2483 technical assistance, and updates the materials and resources

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2484 list to be more inclusive of other pediatric heart
2485 conditions.

2486 These bipartisan changes to the underlying bill are
2487 needed to improve the safety of students and improve the
2488 health of those afflicted with congenital heart disease.

2489 Now, ensuring that HHS has the resources and clear
2490 directives outlined in my AINS will make certain that HHS
2491 collaborates across the Department and with external
2492 stakeholders to raise awareness about the causes of sudden
2493 cardiac arrest. This AINS will allow schools to be better
2494 equipped and have appropriate training, tools, and response
2495 plans to quickly respond to cardiac emergencies, and they can
2496 prevent tragic deaths.

2497 So I want to thank my colleagues and staff with the
2498 majority for working with me on the legislation. I am proud
2499 that this bill, as amended, has the potential to save
2500 thousands of lives each year without the need to authorize
2501 any new Federal spending, and I ask my colleagues for their
2502 support on this amendment and on the underlying bill.

2503 Mr. Chairman, thank you, and I yield back.

2504 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
2505 discussion on the amendment?

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

2506 I recognize myself for five minutes in support of the
2507 amendment. I would like to express my support for Mr.
2508 Pallone's AINS for H.R. 6829, the HEARTS Act.

2509 I am grateful to committee staff on both sides of the
2510 aisle, and advocates like the American Heart Association for
2511 negotiating a good legislative product in this bill.

2512 As a physician and former cardiothoracic surgeon, I know
2513 the importance of education and awareness on health care
2514 issues, and I am very familiar with AEDs and the lifesaving
2515 opportunities they provide. As I have shared before, I have
2516 experience with using a publicly available AED to help a
2517 stranger in need recently at an airport.

2518 Cardiomyopathy is easily missed, especially among young,
2519 healthy people, but it can and does affect them in serious
2520 ways. I am confident this legislation, which supports
2521 education, awareness, research, and AED access in schools
2522 will save lives.

2523 And I yield back. Is there further discussion on the
2524 amendment?

2525 Seeing none, the vote will now occur on the amendment.

2526 All those in favor, say aye.

2527 All those opposed, say no.

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

2528 The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

2529 The vote will now occur on H.R. 6829, and a recorded

2530 vote has been requested, so the clerk will call the roll.

2531 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2532 *Mr. Burgess. Votes aye.

2533 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2534 Latta?

2535 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2536 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

2537 Griffith?

2538 [No response.]

2539 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?

2540 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

2541 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

2542 Bucshon?

2543 *Mr. Bucshon. I want to say this is the bill as

2544 amended. I forgot to mention that part.

2545 I vote aye.

2546 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

2547 Hudson?

2548 [No response.]

2549 *The Clerk. Carter?

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2550 [No response.]

2551 *The Clerk. Dunn?

2552 [No response.]

2553 *The Clerk. Pence?

2554 [No response.]

2555 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?

2556 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

2557 *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye..

2558 Joyce?

2559 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

2560 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

2561 Harshbarger?

2562 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

2563 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.

2564 Miller-Meeks?

2565 [No response.]

2566 *The Clerk. Obernolte?

2567 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

2568 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

2569 Guthrie?

2570 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

2571 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

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

2572 Eshoo?

2573 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

2574 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

2575 Sarbanes?

2576 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

2577 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.

2578 Cardenas?

2579 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.

2580 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.

2581 Ruiz?

2582 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

2583 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

2584 Dingell?

2585 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

2586 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.

2587 Kuster?

2588 [No response.]

2589 *The Clerk. Kelly?

2590 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

2591 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

2592 Barragan?

2593 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

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

2594 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
2595 Blunt Rochester?
2596 [No response.]
2597 *The Clerk. Craig?
2598 *Ms. Craig. Aye.
2599 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.
2600 Schrier?
2601 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2602 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.
2603 Trahan?
2604 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
2605 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.
2606 Pallone?
2607 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2608 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.
2609 *Mr. Bucshon. Anyone else _ how is Mr. Pence recorded?
2610 *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers?
2611 *The Chair. Aye.
2612 *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.
2613 *Mr. Bucshon. Oops. How is Mr. Pence recorded?
2614 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.
2615 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

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

2616 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

2617 *Ms. Kuster. How is _

2618 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster is not recorded.

2619 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

2620 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.

2621 *Mr. Bucshon. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

2622 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.

2623 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

2624 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

2625 *Mr. Bucshon. Is anyone else seeking recognition to

2626 vote?

2627 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

2628 [Pause.]

2629 *The Clerk. Chair Bucshon, on that vote there were 24

2630 eyes and 0 noes.

2631 *Mr. Bucshon. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed

2632 to.

2633 The chair calls up H.R. 7189, and asks the clerk to

2634 report.

2635 *The Clerk. H.R. 7189, a bill to amend the Public

2636 Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenial (sic)

2637 heart disease research surveillance, and _

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

2638 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the first reading of
2639 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2640 amendment at any point.

2641 So ordered.

2642 [The bill follows:]

2643

2644 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2645

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

2646 *Mr. Bucshon. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

2647 Seeing none, are there any bipartisan amendments to the
2648 bill?

2649 I recognize Mr. Bilirakis for an amendment.

2650 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2651 have an amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk.

2652 *Mr. Bucshon. The clerk will report.

2653 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
2654 H.R. 7189, offered by Mr. Bilirakis of Florida. Strike all
2655 after the enacting clause _

2656 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the reading of the
2657 amendment is dispensed with.

2658 [The amendment of Mr. Bilirakis follows:]

2659

2660 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2661

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

2662 *Mr. Bucshon. And the gentleman is recognized for five
2663 minutes in support of the amendment.

2664 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I
2665 want to speak in support of my amendment and the underlying
2666 bill, H.R. 7189, the Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization
2667 Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan
2668 bill.

2669 This legislation will ensure the continued investments
2670 needed at HHS to understand and assess the lifelong needs of
2671 congenital heart disease, or CHD, remain for the next five
2672 years.

2673 At our legislative hearing, I discussed the evolving
2674 needs of congenital heart disease patients in the community
2675 needing access to specialized care throughout their lives.
2676 In fact, the current National Congenital Heart Disease
2677 Research, Surveillance, and Awareness Program specifically
2678 requires HHS to study and track the incidents of congenital
2679 heart disease to understand health outcomes for patients with
2680 CHD across all ages.

2681 However, too often, due to workforce challenges and
2682 education gaps, children with congenital heart defects who
2683 then age into adulthood face significant barriers to access

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2684 to care. That is why I am pleased we were able to come
2685 together in a bipartisan manner to offer this substitute
2686 amendment which will require HHS to issue a report with a
2687 comprehensive assessment of all HHS activities related to
2688 congenital heart disease: public awareness and knowledge,
2689 provider education and training, and workforce capacity
2690 nationwide.

2691 The AINS will then require HHS to develop a strategy
2692 with findings and recommendations to Congress on ways to
2693 improve efforts to increase public awareness and education,
2694 identify research gaps and opportunities, foster
2695 collaboration across sectors, and address workforce shortages
2696 for providers who treat adults living with congenital heart
2697 disease. This strategy will come in consultation with public
2698 and private stakeholder groups such as patient advocacy
2699 organizations, health care professionals, insurers, research
2700 institutions, and relevant Federal agencies such as CDC, NIH,
2701 and HRSA.

2702 I want to thank the committee for working with me on
2703 this initiative, and thank Representative Soto for his
2704 efforts, as well as bicameral support. We have been working
2705 with the Senate, Senator Durbin and Senator Young, on the

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

2706 Congenital Heart Futures Act. I urge my colleagues to
2707 support this very vital, crucial bill _ the AINS, of course,
2708 and vote for the underlying bill.

2709 And I will yield back the balance of my time, unless
2710 somebody needs it on my side of the aisle.

2711 All right, I yield back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2712 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields back. Is there
2713 discussion on the amendment?

2714 If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on
2715 the amendment.

2716 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

2717 All those opposed, nay.

2718 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

2719 Is there any further discussion on the bill?

2720 Seeing none, the vote now occurs on H.R. 7189, as
2721 amended. A roll call vote has been requested, and the clerk
2722 will call the roll.

2723 *The Clerk. Burgess?

2724 *Mr. Burgess. Votes aye.

2725 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

2726 Latta?

2727 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

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

2728 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
2729 Griffith?
2730 [No response.]
2731 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?
2732 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
2733 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.
2734 Bucshon?
2735 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
2736 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
2737 Hudson?
2738 [No response.]
2739 *The Clerk. Carter?
2740 [No response.]
2741 *The Clerk. Dunn?
2742 [No response.]
2743 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
2744 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
2745 *The Clerk. Pence?
2746 Crenshaw votes aye.
2747 Joyce?
2748 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
2749 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.

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

2750 Harshbarger?
2751 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
2752 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
2753 Miller-Meeks?
2754 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
2755 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
2756 Obernolte?
2757 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
2758 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
2759 Guthrie?
2760 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
2761 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
2762 Eshoo?
2763 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
2764 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.
2765 Sarbanes?
2766 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2767 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
2768 Cardenas?
2769 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
2770 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
2771 Ruiz?

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

2772 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2773 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
2774 Dingell?
2775 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2776 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
2777 Kuster?
2778 *Ms. Kuster. Aye.
2779 *The Clerk. Kuster votes aye.
2780 Kelly?
2781 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
2782 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
2783 Barragan?
2784 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2785 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
2786 Blunt Rochester?
2787 [No response.]
2788 *The Clerk. Craig?
2789 *Ms. Craig. Aye.
2790 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.
2791 Schrier?
2792 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
2793 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

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

2794 Trahan?

2795 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2796 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

2797 Pallone?

2798 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2799 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2800 Chair Rodgers?

2801 *The Chair. Aye.

2802 *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.

2803 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Mr. Pence recorded?

2804 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

2805 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

2806 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

2807 *Mr. Bucshon. Is anyone else seeking recognition to

2808 vote?

2809 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

2810 [Pause.]

2811 *The Clerk. Chair Bucshon, on that vote there were 24

2812 ayes and 0 noes.

2813 *Mr. Bucshon. The ayes have it, and the bill, as

2814 amended, is agreed to.

2815 The chair calls up 3916, and asks the clerk to report.

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

2816 *The Clerk. H.R. 3916, a bill to amend the Public
2817 Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National
2818 Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal
2819 years _

2820 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the first reading of
2821 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open to
2822 amendment at any point.

2823 So ordered.

2824 [The bill follows:]

2825

2826 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2827

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

2828 *Mr. Bucshon. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

2829 Seeing none, are there any bipartisan amendments to the

2830 bill?

2831 Are there any other amendments to the bill?

2832 The gentlelady is recognized.

2833 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2834 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentlelady has an amendment at the

2835 desk. The clerk will read it, report.

2836 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

2837 H.R. 3916, offered by Ms. Schrier. Strike all after the

2838 enacting _

2839 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the reading of the

2840 amendment is dispensed with.

2841 [The amendment of Ms. Schrier follows:]

2842

2843 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2844

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

2845 *Mr. Bucshon. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
2846 minutes in support of the amendment.

2847 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
2848 today I offer this amendment in the nature of a substitute
2849 which reauthorizes this critical program, the National Breast
2850 and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which provides
2851 access to breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic
2852 services for low-income, uninsured, or under-insured people
2853 in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, two U.S.
2854 territories, 5 U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands, and 13 tribes
2855 or tribal organizations.

2856 This critical program is a true partnership between the
2857 CDC and state health departments. Since the program's
2858 beginning in 1991, it has served more than 61 million people,
2859 detecting nearly 77,000 invasive breast cancers and more than
2860 24,000 pre-malignant breast lesions.

2861 It is estimated that in 2024 almost a million women will
2862 hear the words, "You have cancer," including 310,720 cases
2863 of breast cancer and 13,820 cases of cervical cancer. In
2864 testimony provided to the subcommittee, the American Cancer
2865 Society estimated that in 2024, nearly 42,000 women will die
2866 from breast cancer, and 4,300 from cervical cancer.

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

2867 My AINS makes minor tweaks to the program to ensure
2868 clarity and flexibility in providing these needed services.
2869 The Screens for Cancer Act is an example of what can work in
2870 preventative health care screenings, and has a proven track
2871 record of improving cancer screening and treatment in
2872 underserved populations.

2873 I urge my colleagues to support my AINS and also the
2874 underlying bill.

2875 Thank you, I yield the balance of my time.

2876 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentlelady yields. Is there
2877 discussion on the amendment?

2878 If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on
2879 the amendment.

2880 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

2881 All those opposed, nay.

2882 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

2883 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 3916, as
2884 amended, to the full committee.

2885 All those in favor, say aye.

2886 Opposed, say no.

2887 A roll call has been requested, and so the clerk will
2888 call the roll.

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

2889 *The Clerk. Burgess?
2890 *Mr. Burgess. Votes aye.
2891 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.
2892 Latta?
2893 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
2894 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
2895 Griffith?
2896 [No response.]
2897 *The Clerk. Bilirakis?
2898 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
2899 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.
2900 Bucshon?
2901 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
2902 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
2903 Hudson?
2904 [No response.]
2905 *The Clerk. Carter?
2906 *Mr. Carter. Aye.
2907 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.
2908 Dunn?
2909 [No response.]
2910 *The Clerk. Pence?

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

2911 [No response.]
2912 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
2913 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
2914 *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.
2915 Joyce?
2916 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
2917 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
2918 Harshbarger?
2919 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
2920 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
2921 Miller-Meeks?
2922 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
2923 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
2924 Obernolte?
2925 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
2926 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
2927 Guthrie?
2928 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
2929 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.
2930 Eshoo?
2931 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.
2932 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

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2933 Sarbanes?
2934 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.
2935 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes aye.
2936 Cardenas?
2937 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
2938 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes aye.
2939 Ruiz?
2940 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2941 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.
2942 Dingell?
2943 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2944 *The Clerk. Dingell votes aye.
2945 Kuster?
2946 [No response.]
2947 *The Clerk. Kelly?
2948 [No response.]
2949 *The Clerk. Barragan?
2950 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2951 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
2952 Blunt Rochester?
2953 [No response.]
2954 *The Clerk. Craig?

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2955 *Ms. Craig. Aye.

2956 *The Clerk. Craig votes aye.

2957 Schrier?

2958 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2959 *The Clerk. Schrier votes aye.

2960 Trahan?

2961 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2962 *The Clerk. Trahan votes aye.

2963 Pallone?

2964 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2965 *The Clerk. Pallone votes aye.

2966 Rodgers?

2967 *The Chair. Aye.

2968 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.

2969 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Pence recorded?

2970 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence is not recorded.

2971 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

2972 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.

2973 *Ms. Kelly. How is Kelly _

2974 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly is not recorded.

2975 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.

2976 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.

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

2977 *Mr. Bucshon. Is anyone else seeking recognition?

2978 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

2979 *The Clerk. Chair Bucshon, on that vote there were 24
2980 ayes and 0 noes.

2981 *Mr. Bucshon. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed
2982 to.

2983 The chair now calls up H.R. 5074, and asks the clerk to
2984 report.

2985 *The Clerk. H.R. 5074, a bill to amend the American
2986 Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to delay implementation of the
2987 inclusion of the oral-only _

2988 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the first reading of
2989 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2990 amendment at any time.

2991 So ordered.

2992

2993

2994

2995 [The bill follows:]

2996

2997 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2998

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

2999 *Mr. Bucshon. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

3000 I recognize myself for five minutes to speak on the
3001 bill. I would like to express my strong support for H.R.
3002 5074, the Kidney PATIENT Act.

3003 The Kidney PATIENT Act was introduced in a bipartisan
3004 way, with the admirable goal of providing physicians and
3005 renal disease patients with access to the best possible
3006 kidney care. As co-chair of the Congressional Kidney Caucus,
3007 I am very familiar with the issues facing dialysis patients,
3008 and hear regularly about challenges with the end stage renal
3009 disease bundled payment system.

3010 The Kidney PATIENT Act seeks to address one of those
3011 challenges by ensuring that oral-only phosphate binder
3012 medications are covered by Medicare Part D plans, rather than
3013 being covered as part of the end stage renal disease payment
3014 bundle. Placing these in the ESRD bundle would mean that
3015 virtually no patients use oral medications, which are proven
3016 to be highly effective for patients because dialysis
3017 facilities wouldn't provide them.

3018 Dialysis facilities already operate on a tight financial
3019 margin, and don't have the infrastructure in place to offer
3020 this type of pharmaceutical drug. Patients that don't have

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3021 access to a Medicare Part D plan wouldn't be excluded from
3022 using these medications, as they could obtain them through
3023 patient assistance programs.

3024 I urge my colleagues to protect patient access to these
3025 important oral therapies and vote in favor of this
3026 legislation.

3027 And I yield back the balance of my time. Does anyone
3028 else seek _ Ranking Member Pallone _

3029 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you _

3030 *Mr. Bucshon. _ you are recognized.

3031 *Mr. Pallone. _ Mr. Chairman. I move to strike the
3032 last word.

3033 *Mr. Bucshon. The ranking member is recognized.

3034 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I have strong concerns with
3035 H.R. 5074, legislation that would keep a single class of
3036 drugs, namely oral-only phosphate binders, out of the
3037 Medicare end stage renal disease prospective payment system
3038 bundle. Any further delays in bringing this class of drugs
3039 into the ESRD bundle will negatively impact patient access to
3040 necessary medication, and raise health care costs for our
3041 nation's seniors.

3042 In 2008, Congress passed the Medicare Improvements for

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3043 Patients and Providers Act, or MIPPA, which created a bundled
3044 payment for renal dialysis services. A bundled payment for
3045 all items and services related to dialysis not only
3046 incentivizes lower cost, higher quality care, but also gives
3047 beneficiaries predictability and protection from high out-of-
3048 pocket costs, ensuring they are not hit with surprise bills
3049 for items and services outside of the ESRD bundle.

3050 While oral-only drugs were intended to be included in
3051 the ESRD bundle in 2014, Congress has since delayed their
3052 inclusion on 3 separate occasions, amounting to an 11-year
3053 delay. In fact, I would like to enter into the record a New
3054 York Times article from around the time of one of the
3055 previous delays enacted in 2013 _ and this article is
3056 entitled, "Big Senate Gift to Drug Maker" _ that criticizes
3057 the delay of oral drugs into the ESRD bundle as an
3058 unnecessary giveaway to industry, and that puts financial
3059 interests over best clinical practice.

3060 And now we are here today in 2024, once again
3061 contemplating a further delay of bringing these important
3062 drugs into the ESRD bundle. Now oral-only phosphate binders
3063 are currently the only remaining item that remains outside
3064 the ESRD bundle payment, other than new technologies, which

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3065 are separately paid on a temporary basis. The continuing
3066 efforts of the manufacturers of these drugs to keep the drug
3067 outside of the bundle negatively impacts Medicare
3068 beneficiaries who bear the higher cost of paying separately
3069 for these drugs.

3070 And these oral-only ESRD drugs are crucial for over 60
3071 percent of patients on dialysis who rely on them to regulate
3072 their phosphate levels. However, one in five Medicare
3073 patients on dialysis do not have Part D coverage. Their
3074 access to these important drugs will be improved by bringing
3075 the drug into the ESRD bundle in Medicare Part B.

3076 And some proponents of this bill have tried to brush off
3077 this reality, arguing without evidence that these
3078 beneficiaries have access to these drugs through other forms
3079 of supplemental coverage, but that is convenient for them to
3080 assume. But according to the Medicare Payment Advisory
3081 Commission, patients on dialysis who do not have Part D
3082 coverage are actually far less likely to have coverage from
3083 other sources than other Medicare beneficiaries.

3084 The reality, Mr. Chairman, is that for many seniors
3085 without Medicare Part D, they will have to pay hundreds or
3086 even thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket just to access

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3087 these medications. In fact, the price of just one of the
3088 newer drugs in this class is a whopping \$35,520 per year, and
3089 that is approximately \$2,960 a month for patients without
3090 Part D coverage. It is nearly the cost of providing dialysis
3091 for an entire year to a Medicare beneficiary. I frankly
3092 think it is shocking.

3093 Another delay in bringing this drug into the ESRD bundle
3094 will lock seniors out of coverage for necessary medication,
3095 or force them to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket
3096 just to access these medications.

3097 So I am also concerned that this bill would further
3098 exacerbate gaps in health outcomes. Black patients are three
3099 times more likely to experience kidney failure than White
3100 people, and one in three Black Medicare beneficiaries will be
3101 diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in their lifetime. But
3102 only 10 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are Black. Nearly
3103 30 percent of dialysis patients are Black.

3104 Additionally, Black patients are more likely to report
3105 difficulty, according to their prescription drugs (sic).
3106 Another delay would extend unequal access to necessary
3107 medications and result in high out-of-pocket drug costs for
3108 minority and medically underserved communities. CMS has

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3109 found that inclusion of oral drugs into the bundle increases
3110 utilization and increases access for minority communities.
3111 In 2018 oral calcimimetics were incorporated into the bundle,
3112 and subsequently CMS observed increased access and high
3113 utilization among Black and Hispanic patients.

3114 So finally, I would like to address the arguments made
3115 by some stakeholders that somehow the dialysis industry is
3116 not ready for this change. In fact, CMS has communicated
3117 they are ready to include these drugs in the ESRD bundle
3118 beginning in 2025. In a recent report the U.S. GAO found
3119 that dialysis organizations have the capacity to dispense
3120 oral-only ESRD drugs to Medicare beneficiaries, and that they
3121 currently already dispense oral drugs to seniors. Another
3122 delay is, in my opinion, unnecessary, and will only harm
3123 patients' access to these drugs.

3124 For over a decade there has been delays in moving oral-
3125 only drugs into the Part B ESRD bundle, resulting in a lack
3126 of access to coverage for seniors, and I believe it is time
3127 we close this loophole. So I urge my colleagues to oppose
3128 the bill.

3129 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

3130 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone

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3131 else seeking recognition?

3132 Mr. Carter from Georgia, you are recognized for five
3133 minutes.

3134 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
3135 word.

3136 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman is recognized.

3137 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to join my
3138 colleague, Representative Kuster, in introducing the Kidney
3139 PATIENT Act, which supports chronic kidney disease patients'
3140 access to lifesaving oral-only drugs using Medicare Part D.

3141 There are more than 1 in 7 adults, or about 35.5 million
3142 people, living with chronic kidney disease in the United
3143 States. Many of these patients have kidney failure and are
3144 on dialysis up to three days a week, often leaving fatigued.

3145 One of the biggest challenges patients with kidney
3146 failure experience is managing high levels of phosphate in
3147 their blood, which can heighten the risk for heart attack or
3148 stroke if left untreated. The standard of care for high
3149 phosphate is medication known as Phosphate Lowering
3150 Therapies, or PLTs, and these drugs must be taken outside of
3151 the dialysis setting, since they must be taken with food, and
3152 you are prohibited from eating in the dialysis setting.

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3153 Patients currently have access to these drugs, but they
3154 would _ that would change under CMS's plan to add phosphate-
3155 lowering therapies into Medicare Part B end stage renal
3156 disease prospective payment system by 2025. This would
3157 threaten kidney disease patients' access to lifesaving
3158 medications, and increase costs for dialysis treatments. The
3159 bipartisan Kidney PATIENT Act will delay this move until
3160 2033, or until new therapies come to the market extending
3161 patients' ability to access oral-only drugs through Medicare
3162 Part D.

3163 It makes no sense for CMS to bring these drugs into the
3164 bundle, given that patients are not supposed to have any food
3165 or drink during dialysis.

3166 Furthermore, according to the Congressional Budget
3167 Office, moving the phosphate-lowering drugs into the bundle
3168 will increase Medicare Part B premiums for all beneficiaries.

3169 The Kidney PATIENT Act is common-sense legislation that
3170 will ensure patients with severe kidney disease who are on
3171 dialysis can continue to receive quality health care.

3172 It also has broad community support from more than 70
3173 organizations representing patients, providers, and advocates
3174 in support of this bill.

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3175 I would also like to read a statement from a patient in
3176 Georgia who will be negatively impacted if CMS moves these
3177 oral-only phosphate-lowering therapies into the bundle. She
3178 says _ and I quote _ "Ensuring the passage of the Kidney
3179 Patient Act is crucial for safeguarding the well-being of
3180 dialysis patients.'`

3181 I encourage my colleagues to support the Kidney Patient
3182 Act before us today and protect end stage renal disease
3183 patients across the country.

3184 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

3185 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
3186 else seeking recognition to speak on the bill?

3187 Dr. Joyce, you are recognized for five minutes.

3188 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3189 Currently, oral-only phosphate-lowering drugs are
3190 covered under Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit,
3191 which provides broad coverage to a range of phosphate
3192 management therapies at low, out-of-pocket costs to the
3193 patient. By moving these drugs, which are taken by most
3194 dialysis patients, to the ESRD payment bundle, CMS risks
3195 making these drugs less accessible and less affordable to
3196 those who need it.

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3197 Because phosphate lowering medications are taken
3198 multiple times during the day with meals and snacks, patients
3199 cannot take them during dialysis because meals and snacks are
3200 often delayed, and ESRD clinics are not appropriate venues to
3201 handle these medications.

3202 Congress has stepped in before to delay this change, and
3203 I am proud to support H.R. 5074, which would again maintain
3204 better coverage for beneficiaries. This is an important step
3205 to ensure that ESRD patients maintain access to care under
3206 Medicare.

3207 I would also like to highlight H.R. 6860, a bill that,
3208 while not being considered during this markup, would support
3209 dialysis patients with private coverage whose employer-
3210 sponsored coverage is under threat.

3211 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I yield back.

3212 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
3213 further discussion on the bill?

3214 Seeing none, are there any bipartisan amendments to the
3215 bill?

3216 Seeing none, are there other amendments to the bill?

3217 Also seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding
3218 H.R. 5074 to the full committee. A roll call vote has been

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3219 requested. The clerk will call the roll.

3220 *The Clerk. Burgess?

3221 *Mr. Burgess. Votes aye.

3222 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

3223 Latta?

3224 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3225 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.

3226 Griffith?

3227 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3228 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

3229 Bilirakis?

3230 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

3231 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.

3232 Bucshon?

3233 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

3234 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.

3235 Hudson?

3236 [No response.]

3237 *The Clerk. Carter?

3238 *Mr. Carter. Aye.

3239 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.

3240 Dunn?

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3241 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
3242 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.
3243 Pence?
3244 [No response.]
3245 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
3246 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
3247 *The Clerk. Crenshaw votes aye.
3248 Joyce?
3249 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
3250 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
3251 Harshbarger?
3252 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3253 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
3254 Miller-Meeks?
3255 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
3256 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
3257 Obernolte?
3258 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
3259 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.
3260 Guthrie?
3261 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
3262 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

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3263 Eshoo?

3264 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

3265 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes no.

3266 Sarbanes?

3267 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.

3268 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.

3269 Cardenas?

3270 *Mr. Cardenas. No.

3271 *The Clerk. Cardenas votes no.

3272 Ruiz?

3273 *Mr. Ruiz. No.

3274 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes no.

3275 Dingell?

3276 *Mrs. Dingell. No.

3277 *The Clerk. Dingell votes no.

3278 Kuster?

3279 [No response.]

3280 *The Clerk. Kelly?

3281 [No response.]

3282 *The Clerk. Barragan?

3283 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

3284 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.

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

3285 Blunt Rochester?
3286 [No response.]
3287 *The Clerk. Craig?
3288 *Ms. Craig. No.
3289 *The Clerk. Craig votes no.
3290 Schrier?
3291 *Ms. Schrier. No.
3292 *The Clerk. Schrier votes no.
3293 Trahan?
3294 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
3295 *The Clerk. Trahan votes no.
3296 Pallone?
3297 *Mr. Pallone. No.
3298 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.
3299 Rodgers?
3300 *The Chair. Aye.
3301 *The Clerk. Rodgers votes aye.
3302 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Mr. Pence recorded?
3303 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.
3304 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
3305 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Ms. Kelly recorded?
3306 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly is not recorded.

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3307 *Ms. Kelly. No.

3308 *The Clerk. Kelly votes no.

3309 *Mr. Bucshon. Is anyone else seeking recognition to
3310 vote?

3311 Seeing none, the clerk will report.

3312 *The Clerk. Chair Bucshon, on that vote there were 16
3313 ayes and 10 noes.

3314 *Mr. Bucshon. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed
3315 to.

3316 The chair now calls up H.R. 5526, and asks the clerk to
3317 report.

3318 *The Clerk. H.R. 5526, a bill to amend title XVIII of
3319 the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-
3320 office ancillary services exception to _

3321 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, the first reading of
3322 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3323 amendment at any point.

3324 So ordered.

3325 [The bill follows:]

3326

3327 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3328

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3329 *Mr. Bucshon. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

3330 *Mrs. Harshbarger. I do.

3331 *Mr. Bucshon. I recognize Ms. Eshoo for five minutes.

3332 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek
3333 recognition to strike the last word and speak on this bill.

3334 During the pandemic many cancer patients were able to
3335 get their drugs mailed directly to them from their doctors,
3336 from their oncologists. But that flexibility ended when the
3337 public health emergency ended. So this legislation that we
3338 are voting on today simply extends this common-sense policy
3339 so that independent physicians with on-site pharmacies can
3340 mail their patients their drugs instead of making them come
3341 in person to pick them up.

3342 I could stop right here, but I am going to add some more
3343 things to this because, more than anything else, I think this
3344 is common sense.

3345 But it is also important because about 15,000
3346 independent oncologists in our country have on-site
3347 pharmacies as part of their practices. In my district I have
3348 three independent oncologists with on-site pharmacies.
3349 Integrating pharmacies with a doctor's office may improve
3350 care for patients by reducing the wait times between

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3351 diagnosis and treatment, improving patient monitoring, and
3352 enhancing medication adherence.

3353 For example, an in-house pharmacy can alert physicians
3354 to intervene when patients miss a prescription or if there is
3355 an issue with prior authorization. In-house pharmacies can
3356 also be more _ easily provide _ they can more easily provide
3357 shorter prescriptions than the typical 90-day prescriptions
3358 offered by the big chains. This is good for cancer
3359 treatments because of _ or cancer patients whose treatments
3360 change frequently in response to how they are improving.

3361 Independent oncology practices that prescribe and fill
3362 cancer drugs on site can also save patients and Medicare
3363 money. Last month, JAMA published an investigation by
3364 Harvard economist, Dr. Kakani and Dr. Cutler that found that
3365 point-of-sale prices for high-cost drugs filled by in-house
3366 pharmacies was 1.76 percent lower than other pharmacies,
3367 which are mostly owned and controlled by PBMs. That should
3368 set some members of this committee off, since we are all on
3369 the same page on PBMs. On-site pharmacies saved an average
3370 of \$800 for high-cost drugs per patient annually.

3371 Now, some of my colleagues oppose the bill because they
3372 are concerned that physicians will have the financial

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3373 incentive to over-prescribe if they are allowed to mail the
3374 drugs. But I think this concern really misses a few
3375 important good points.

3376 First, it is already legal for these doctors to refer
3377 their patients to their on-site pharmacy, so the financial
3378 incentive already exists.

3379 Second, if Medicare identifies over-prescribing, then it
3380 has the authority from Congress to deny improper claims. My
3381 view is we shouldn't create barriers to care for Medicare
3382 beneficiaries, especially cancer patients, because of an
3383 unproven concern about potential over-prescribing.

3384 This legislation will make sure cancer patients don't
3385 have to worry whether they will be too sick to make the drive
3386 to their oncologist's office to pick up their drugs, which is
3387 a very good reason, I think, to vote for the legislation.

3388 So thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

3389 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentlelady yields back. Who else
3390 seeks recognition on the bill?

3391 Mr. Carter, you are recognized for five minutes.

3392 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
3393 word.

3394 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman is recognized.

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3395 *Mr. Carter. As a pharmacist, I know firsthand the
3396 importance of cancer patients getting their medications in a
3397 timely manner without any obstacles. Oncology practices
3398 should easily be able to deliver the medications they
3399 dispense or have a family member pick up the medications for
3400 them.

3401 However, CMS is suggesting that patients should rely on
3402 PBM mail service _ PBM mail service _ to get their
3403 medications. This is a non-starter because there will be
3404 delays and denials.

3405 We need to pass this simple solution that is in H.R.
3406 5526, the Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act, for
3407 the sake of Medicare, seniors, and those disabled. This is
3408 why I applaud Representative Harshbarger for introducing this
3409 bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

3410 Does anyone want me to yield?

3411 Diana?

3412 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Yes, thank you.

3413 *Mr. Carter. I yield to Representative Harshbarger.

3414 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Okay, thank you, Representative
3415 Carter. I want to speak in support of this bill.

3416 I appreciate Chairs Guthrie and Rodgers and Ranking

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3417 Members Eshoo and Pallone for including consideration of this
3418 bipartisan Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act, and I
3419 want to thank the 20 bipartisan members of the Energy and
3420 Commerce Committee who have joined in cosponsoring this
3421 crucial bill.

3422 We have 57 total bipartisan cosponsors to date, and
3423 there is a bipartisan Senate companion bill being championed
3424 by Senators Blackburn and Sinema.

3425 And my colleagues will recall my focusing many times on
3426 this tremendously important issue for Medicare cancer
3427 patients and others with serious diseases to ensure they have
3428 timely access to their appropriate lifesaving medications.

3429 And, you know, I have been a community pharmacist for
3430 over 35 years, and no mission is more important and
3431 fundamental than this one.

3432 CMS has communicated that it is a Medicare Stark
3433 violation if a medical practice such as a community oncology
3434 practice delivers a prescribed and filled drug to a patient
3435 via mail, courier, UPS, Fedex, or other means, or even allows
3436 a family member or caregiver to pick up a patient's drug.
3437 CMS insists that the patient is personally required to pick
3438 up their medications from their provider.

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3439 However, if Medicare seniors are too sick, if they live
3440 in a rural area, or simply don't have reliable
3441 transportation, in-person pickup of their vital medications
3442 is just not possible. And we shouldn't put obstacles in the
3443 way of cancer patients or patients receiving their needed
3444 medications.

3445 So the Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act is a
3446 short and relatively simple bill all about ensuring cancer
3447 and other patients have timely access to their appropriate
3448 oral medications. It would allow delivery of Medicare oral
3449 medications or allow a family member or caregiver to pick up
3450 these needed medications, just as these clinicians have been
3451 doing prior to the pandemic.

3452 And I have heard from dozens and dozens of Tennessee
3453 oncologists and patients, as well as many others around the
3454 country, who have said this is a major problem negatively
3455 impacting patients across the country.

3456 I have this _ I commend my colleagues' attention to this
3457 STAT news column for March 1, 2024, entitled, "New Federal
3458 Guidance is Hurting Cancer Patients, Especially Those in
3459 Rural Areas.'" It is authored by an oncologist from rural
3460 Tennessee, and this piece crystallizes and illustrates the

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3461 necessity of H.R. 5526, and how current CMS rules are
3462 frustrating providers, imposing significant harm to cancer
3463 patients with obstacles to getting their appropriate care
3464 they need in a timely manner.

3465 And to quote briefly from the author at Tennessee
3466 Oncology, they say, "This befuddling CMS rule interpretation
3467 has led to serious disruptions in the world of community
3468 oncology, where the vast majority of Americans receive their
3469 cancer care, and reveals a limited understanding of the
3470 evolution in medical therapy and practice over the past
3471 decade, and has a disproportionate effect on rural patients
3472 because half of that physician's patients receive their oral
3473 anti-cancer medications by mail.' '

3474 The current CMS rule interpretation isn't just hurting
3475 patients, it is also exasperating waste, driving up health
3476 care costs. If a drug shipped out to a satellite clinic
3477 isn't picked up because of the disease progression leading to
3478 a regimen change, toxicity leading to a treatment pause or
3479 hospitalization, it is ineligible to be restocked and must be
3480 discarded. Tennessee Oncology has calculated that this led
3481 to millions of dollars of drug wastage at a time when we are
3482 experiencing catastrophic chemo drug shortages.

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3483 I ask unanimous consent for this STAT news column to be
3484 included in the subcommittee's record.

3485 *Mr. Bucshon. Without objection, so ordered.

3486 [The information follows:]

3487

3488 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3489

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

3490 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Okay, I truly appreciate my
3491 committee colleagues from both sides of the aisle who support
3492 this vital legislation, and I want to thank the chair, and I
3493 urge my colleagues to support advancing H.R. 5526.

3494 And with that I yield back.

3495 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

3496 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields back. Who else
3497 seeks recognition?

3498 Mr. Pallone, the ranking member, is recognized for five
3499 minutes.

3500 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very
3501 concerned that this bill would create a giant loophole in the
3502 physician self-referral law commonly known as the Stark Law.

3503 The Stark Law prohibits physicians from making referrals
3504 to entities in which the physician has a financial stake,
3505 unless that relationship satisfies one of a few statutory
3506 exceptions. For example, the Stark Law explicitly prohibits
3507 physicians from referring outpatient prescriptions to
3508 pharmacies that they own or have a financial stake in.

3509 I believe the law and its narrow exceptions are critical
3510 in protecting Medicare beneficiaries by ensuring that
3511 financial considerations do not influence patient care, that

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3512 provider decisions are made on the basis of clinical
3513 criteria, and to protect the integrity of the Medicare
3514 program.

3515 The law includes specific and narrowly tailored
3516 exceptions such as the in-office ancillary service exception,
3517 which permits a physician with an ownership stake to provide
3518 an outpatient prescription drug or certain services to a
3519 patient at his or her office as part of an in-person visit.
3520 And this is for the convenience of the patient, but also
3521 because there are more limited program integrity concerns
3522 when the item or service is being delivered as part of an in-
3523 person office visit.

3524 Now, during the COVID-19 pandemic the Centers for
3525 Medicare and Medicaid Services provided a limited waiver from
3526 the Stark Law by waiving the location requirement of the in-
3527 office ancillary service exception. I believe this waiver
3528 was necessary to protect vulnerable patients during the
3529 public health emergency, which has now expired. But this
3530 bill, H.R. 5526, would significantly broaden the exemptions
3531 under the Stark Law, and would undermine the integrity of the
3532 Medicare program.

3533 The bill would allow providers to operate mail order

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3534 pharmacies out of their practices permanently. Medicare Part
3535 D already provides robust coverage for outpatient
3536 prescription drugs, and Part D plans are required to ensure
3537 beneficiary access to in-network or retail pharmacies,
3538 including through delivery via mail order.

3539 CMS, the Department of Justice, Department of Health and
3540 Human Services, Office of Inspector General aggressively
3541 investigate and prosecute billions of dollars in health care
3542 fraud, waste, and abuse each year, which in turn prevents
3543 losses to the Medicare Trust Fund and keeps health care costs
3544 low for seniors. Carving out additional exemptions under the
3545 Stark Law undermines this critical work.

3546 I also believe HHS, OIG, and law enforcement agencies
3547 are concerned this bill would undermine their ability to
3548 protect the integrity of the Medicare program. Just go to
3549 the DoJ's website and you will find many examples of Medicare
3550 mail order fraud schemes. In one recent case providers
3551 ordered \$50 million in fraudulent mail order prescriptions
3552 and durable medical equipment such as lidocaine and diabetic
3553 testing supplies that patients did not need or want. These
3554 companies were billing Medicare with no evidence that any of
3555 the seniors wanted these items or services, or even received

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3556 them. In another case providers ordered over \$1 billion in
3557 unnecessary genetic tests and durable medical equipment via a
3558 mail order scheme.

3559 H.R. 5526 would significantly weakened the Stark Law,
3560 paving the way for more fraud and abuse in the Medicare
3561 program. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates
3562 the bill has significant scoring implications due to
3563 incentivizing providers to prescribe more medications.

3564 Now, while I have strong concerns with significantly
3565 weakening the Stark Law, I believe there are limited
3566 instances in which it may be necessary for a caregiver or a
3567 family member to pick up the prescription drug for patients,
3568 which is currently prohibited under the Stark Law. I believe
3569 there are limited program integrity concerns in these
3570 instances, and limiting it to only caregivers or family
3571 members would also address my concerns regarding fraud,
3572 waste, and abuse. And I am disappointed we could not reach a
3573 bipartisan agreement with the majority on this alternative
3574 approach that I proposed.

3575 Patients deserve, Mr. Chairman, access to treatment that
3576 is medically appropriate for them, and the Stark Law ensures
3577 that patients receive care based on medical necessity, and

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3578 not based on whatever treatment makes their provider the most
3579 money. I can't support a bill that would undermine patient
3580 safety, jeopardize the integrity of the Medicare program, and
3581 raise health care costs for seniors, so I urge my colleagues
3582 to oppose the bill.

3583 Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank you and yield back _

3584 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields back.

3585 *Mr. Pallone. _ the balance of my time.

3586 *Mr. Bucshon. Who else seeks recognition?

3587 Mr. Griffith, you are recognized for five minutes.

3588 *Mr. Griffith. I thank the gentleman for the five
3589 minutes. While we disagree on the underlying purpose of the
3590 bill or import of the bill, Mr. Pallone has just made a point
3591 that I wanted to make to this full committee.

3592 Prosecution of any violations of the Stark Act would
3593 fall under the False Claims Act. The False Claims Act
3594 carries with it a penalty not to exceed 5 years in the
3595 penitentiary and a \$250,000 fine _ up to a \$250,000 fine for
3596 individuals, a \$500,000 fine for corporations, as I
3597 understand it.

3598 You say, why are you bringing this up, Morgan? And the
3599 answer is that the CMS folks have indicated to us they

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3600 believe that this was always a violation of Stark, even prior
3601 to COVID, and yet prior to a ruling in September of 2021, Mr.
3602 Chairman, CMS did not interpret the law that way. But if
3603 they now maintain that their position was that the law was
3604 always _ that this was a violation of Stark, any medical
3605 practice or doctor who did this prior to the frequently asked
3606 question determination by CMS between the years of 2014 and
3607 September of 2021 could be subject to punishment under the
3608 False Claims Act.

3609 That is why I think it was extremely wonderful that Mrs.
3610 Harshbarger's bill says it is a clarification of the
3611 application, because this is not new. It has been done since
3612 the beginning, since the beginning of this process in 2006.

3613 I think we have to pass this in order to make sure that
3614 we are clarifying the law, and everybody understands that
3615 those doctors who were acting in accordance with what CMS
3616 determined the law to be at the time _ or at least they
3617 didn't say it was a violation of the law _ are not subject to
3618 prosecution.

3619 Now, from 2006 to 2014 you can argue that the statute of
3620 limitations already ran, at least up until March 11 of that
3621 year, because we haven't finished the 12th yet.

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3622 I certainly hope CMS isn't looking to bring any Stark
3623 False Claim Acts against these physicians who have been
3624 helping patients in all of our districts. But if we do not
3625 pass this, we will be sending a green light that those
3626 prosecutions could go forward. I think we need to clarify
3627 the law, that this was the law all along, and Mrs.
3628 Harshbarger's bill should be passed.

3629 And I yield back.

3630 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentleman yields. Does anyone on the
3631 Democrat side want to speak?

3632 I recognize Ms. Schrier for five minutes.

3633 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be
3634 voting no on H.R. 5526.

3635 In many ways it seems like a solution without a problem;
3636 ninety percent of Americans live within five miles of a
3637 pharmacy.

3638 I do agree with my friend, Representative Carter, that
3639 it doesn't make sense for traditional mail order pharmacies,
3640 the PBM pharmacies, to be sending prescriptions because there
3641 is a delay, but local pharmacies already can send
3642 prescriptions to their patients. So it would be very easy
3643 for a physician, for example, to electronically transmit a

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3644 prescription to a local pharmacy, and that pharmacy could
3645 then mail it.

3646 Also, already family and friends can pick up
3647 prescriptions for their loved ones. And so the issue of
3648 driving when ill is something that just _ it isn't a real
3649 issue in most cases right now.

3650 Now, I do also agree with Representative Eshoo, that
3651 there should be an exception for oncology, because those are
3652 specialized medications often not carried by traditional
3653 pharmacies. And it is the kind of thing where medication
3654 adjustments can happen. So I think we can work together. I
3655 see an opportunity to work together in a bipartisan way to
3656 create a bill that could get support from both parties.

3657 And with that I yield back.

3658 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentlelady yields. I recognize Mrs.
3659 Miller-Meeks for five minutes.

3660 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and
3661 I just want to point out that many of the bills that we are
3662 discussing this morning have been about supporting physicians
3663 and patients all morning long, and that is what this bill
3664 does.

3665 And then I might also say, as a provider who has gone

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3666 out of my way to treat patients in rural areas, and put many
3667 windshield miles on, and even driven patients into my office
3668 for procedures, I find it offensive for physicians to
3669 continually be labeled by certain members as only wanting to
3670 line their own pockets. Hospitals are able to mail drugs to
3671 patients. This bill just allows physician practices to do
3672 it.

3673 We also have an integrated vertical system of PBMs owned
3674 by health insurance companies who also own providers. And
3675 why isn't that considered a violation of the Stark Law? And
3676 why are we not talking about that, as Ms. Eshoo pointed out
3677 when talking about the PBMs?

3678 Further, as far as how far patients live from their
3679 providers, a new study presented last week at the ASCO
3680 Quality Care Symposium found that recent CMS decision to
3681 limit the delivery of cancer medications imposes a
3682 substantial burden on patients, particularly those living in
3683 socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

3684 Let me continue. The study identified a total of 970
3685 patients who received home-delivered prescriptions under
3686 traditional Medicare Part D. Of these patients, 71 percent
3687 resided within a 20-mile radius of the nearest clinic, while

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3688 22 percent lived between 20 and 50 miles away.

3689 Furthermore, 7 percent lived more than 50 miles from the
3690 closest clinic, and 60 addresses could not be properly
3691 matched to an Area Deprivation Index, ADI, database, which is
3692 a measure of neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage. When
3693 considering the ADI rankings, 40 percent of patients living
3694 within 20 miles of the clinic faced significant risk of
3695 disparity, a figure that rose to 67 percent for those
3696 residing within 20 to 50 miles away, and 61 percent for
3697 individuals living more than 50 miles away from their clinic.

3698 Let me just say that the pandemic underscored to
3699 everyone that we have laws and regulations that we don't
3700 need. Let me, just for instance, suggest telehealth. And
3701 everyone in this room was in favor of extending the waivers
3702 that were granted for telehealth from Medicare, because what
3703 the pandemic underscored was that it increased access to care
3704 and it was favorable to patients. This is another one of
3705 those regulations that we are now imposing that we do not
3706 need, and especially when it comes to oncologic drugs which
3707 are short-acting, have numerous side effects _ so I don't
3708 think over-prescription is going to be a problem by patients
3709 _ and has frequent changes in accordance with the patient's

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3710 status of their treatment.

3711 So I am in favor of Mrs. Harshbarger's legislation. I
3712 hope that all of our colleagues will support it, will support
3713 physicians and patients in rural areas.

3714 And I yield back.

3715 *Mr. Bucshon. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone
3716 else seeking recognition on the bill?

3717 Are there any bipartisan or other amendments to the
3718 bill?

3719 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
3720 5526 to the full committee. A roll call vote has been
3721 requested. The clerk will call the roll.

3722 *The Clerk. Burgess?

3723 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

3724 *The Clerk. Burgess votes aye.

3725 Latta?

3726 [No response.]

3727 *The Clerk. Griffith?

3728 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3729 *The Clerk. Griffith votes aye.

3730 Bilirakis?

3731 [No response.]

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3732 *The Clerk. Bucshon?
3733 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
3734 *The Clerk. Bucshon votes aye.
3735 Hudson?
3736 [No response.]
3737 *The Clerk. Carter?
3738 *Mr. Carter. Aye.
3739 *The Clerk. Carter votes aye.
3740 Dunn?
3741 [No response.]
3742 *The Clerk. Pence?
3743 [No response.]
3744 *The Clerk. Crenshaw?
3745 [No response.]
3746 *The Clerk. Joyce?
3747 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
3748 *The Clerk. Joyce votes aye.
3749 Harshbarger?
3750 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3751 *The Clerk. Harshbarger votes aye.
3752 Miller-Meeks?
3753 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

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3754 *The Clerk. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

3755 Obernolte?

3756 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

3757 *The Clerk. Obernolte votes aye.

3758 Guthrie?

3759 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.

3760 *The Clerk. Guthrie votes aye.

3761 Eshoo?

3762 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

3763 *The Clerk. Eshoo votes aye.

3764 Sarbanes?

3765 *Mr. Sarbanes. No.

3766 *The Clerk. Sarbanes votes no.

3767 Cardenas?

3768 [No response.]

3769 *The Clerk. Ruiz?

3770 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3771 *The Clerk. Ruiz votes aye.

3772 Dingell?

3773 [No response.]

3774 *The Clerk. Kuster?

3775 [No response.]

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3776 *The Clerk. Kelly?
3777 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
3778 *The Clerk. Kelly votes aye.
3779 Barragan?
3780 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3781 *The Clerk. Barragan votes aye.
3782 Blunt Rochester?
3783 [No response.]
3784 *The Clerk. Craig?
3785 *Ms. Craig. No.
3786 *The Clerk. Craig votes no.
3787 Schrier?
3788 *Ms. Schrier. No.
3789 *The Clerk. Schrier votes no.
3790 Trahan?
3791 *Mrs. Trahan. No.
3792 *The Clerk. Trahan votes no.
3793 Pallone?
3794 *Mr. Pallone. No.
3795 *The Clerk. Pallone votes no.
3796 Chair Rodgers?
3797 *The Chair. Aye.

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3798 *The Clerk. Chair Rodgers votes aye.
3799 *Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Latta, how is Mr. Latta recorded?
3800 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.
3801 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
3802 *The Clerk. Latta votes aye.
3803 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Mr. Bilirakis recorded?
3804 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.
3805 *Mr. Bilirakis. Votes aye.
3806 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes aye.
3807 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Mr. Dunn recorded?
3808 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.
3809 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
3810 *The Clerk. Dunn votes aye.
3811 *Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Pence, how is he recorded?
3812 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.
3813 *The Clerk. Pence votes aye.
3814 *Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Cardenas, how is he reported (sic)?
3815 *Mr. Cardenas. Aye.
3816 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
3817 *Mr. Bucshon. How is Mrs. Dingell recorded?
3818 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell is not recorded.
3819 *Mrs. Dingell. No.

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3820 *The Clerk. Dingell votes no.

3821 *Mr. Bucshon. Seeing no one else seeking recognition to
3822 vote, the clerk will report.

3823 [Pause.]

3824 *The Clerk. Chair Bucshon, on that vote there were 19
3825 ayes and 6 noes.

3826 *Mr. Bucshon. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed
3827 to.

3828 *Mr. Guthrie. [Presiding] The chair calls up H.R. 2706,
3829 and asks the clerk to report.

3830 *The Clerk. H.R. 2706, a bill to prohibit
3831 discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability
3832 in the cases of organ transplants _

3833 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
3834 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3835 amendment at any point.

3836 So ordered.

3837

3838

3839

3840 [The bill follows:]

3841

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3842 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3843

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3844 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

3845 The chair recognizes Dr. Miller-Meeks for five minutes
3846 to speak on the bill.

3847 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
3848 last word.

3849 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady is recognized.

3850 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
3851 proud to cosponsor H.R. 2706, the Charlotte Woodward Organ
3852 Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act, which prohibits
3853 entities from determining that an individual is ineligible to
3854 receive a transplant or related services based solely on the
3855 fact that the individual has a disability, either
3856 intellectual or physical.

3857 Currently, 40 states across the country have a non-
3858 discrimination law in place to expressly prohibit organ
3859 transplant discrimination against individuals with
3860 disability, but there is still need for Federal protections
3861 to ensure that individuals with disabilities across the
3862 country are afforded the same legal protections.

3863 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I urge my colleagues to
3864 support this legislation and I yield back.

3865 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady yields back. Is anyone

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3866 seeking to touch on the bill?

3867 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

3868 The gentlelady is recognized. The gentlelady from
3869 Michigan is recognized to offer an amendment.

3870 *Mrs. Dingell. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment in the
3871 nature of a substitute at the desk.

3872 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report the amendment.

3873 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
3874 H.R. 2706, offered by Mrs. Dingell. Strike all _

3875 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the reading of the
3876 amendment is dispensed with, and the gentlelady is recognized
3877 for five minutes in support of her amendment.

3878 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3879 This amendment makes technical changes to H.R. 2706, the
3880 Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention
3881 Act, which is legislation that I am very proud to lead
3882 alongside Representative Kat Cammack. This bill prohibits
3883 discrimination against people with disabilities in the organ
3884 transplant system by ensuring eligible individuals are not
3885 declined a lifesaving transplant based solely on their
3886 disability.

3887 It is named after Charlotte Woodward, an incredible

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3888 young woman who was actually here on the day in the audience
3889 when we had hearings, who was born with Down syndrome, who
3890 received a lifesaving heart transplant in 2012. Today she
3891 has dedicated her life to advocating for people with
3892 disabilities to receive equal access, and she inspires me
3893 every time I meet with her.

3894 It is unconscionable that people with disabilities are
3895 passed over for lifesaving transplants based on
3896 discriminatory and subjective assumptions about their ability
3897 to comply with post-operative care. With this legislation we
3898 can take concrete steps to ensure all patients receive
3899 equitable access to care, regardless of their disability
3900 status.

3901 I remain committed to working with my colleagues to
3902 ensure we get this bill right by the time it comes to full
3903 committee. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

3904 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

3905 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
3906 discussion on the amendment?

3907 If there is no further discussion on the amendment, the
3908 vote occurs on the amendment.

3909 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

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3910 All opposed, nay.

3911 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

3912 Are there any other amendments?

3913 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.

3914 2706, as amended, to the full committee.

3915 All those in favor, say aye.

3916 All opposed, no.

3917 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

3918 The chair calls up H.R. 5012, and asks the clerk to

3919 report.

3920 *The Clerk. H.R. 5012, a bill to improve research and

3921 data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

3922 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of

3923 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

3924 amendment at any point.

3925 So ordered.

3926 [The bill follows:]

3927

3928 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3929

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3930 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

3931 For what purpose does the gentleman from Texas seek

3932 recognition?

3933 *Mr. Burgess. To speak on the bill.

3934 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman is recognized.

3935 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Stillbirth

3936 Health Improvement and Education Act is an important bill

3937 before us, and I urge members on both sides to support it.

3938 Despite medical advances, the stillbirth rates have

3939 barely changed over the past 30 years. So we need accurate

3940 data to understand the underlying causes of stillbirth. By

3941 awarding grants for surveillance and data collection on

3942 stillbirths, H.R. 5012 helps gather crucial information to

3943 better understand the causes and risk factors associated with

3944 stillbirth. This data is essential for informing public

3945 health policies and providing interventions aimed at reducing

3946 the stillbirth rates.

3947 I believe this bill is a step in the right direction to

3948 raise awareness among health care providers. Expecting (sic)

3949 parents and the public, increased awareness can lead to early

3950 detection of risk factors, better management during

3951 pregnancy, and the potential for fewer stillbirths.

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3952 I urge adoption, and I yield back.

3953 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
3954 discussion on the bill?

3955 Seeing none, are there any bipartisan amendments to the
3956 bill?

3957 Seeing none, are there other amendments to the bill?

3958 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
3959 5012 to the full committee.

3960 All those in favor, say aye.

3961 All those opposed, no.

3962 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

3963 The chair calls up H.R. 7208, and asks the clerk to
3964 report.

3965 *The Clerk. H.R. 7208, a bill to reauthorize the
3966 Traumatic Brain Injury Program. Be it enacted by the Senate
3967 and _

3968 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
3969 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3970 amendment at any point.

3971 So ordered.

3972 [The bill follows:]

3973

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3974 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3975

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3976 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anyone seek recognition on the bill?

3977 Are there any bipartisan amendments?

3978 I have an amendment at the desk in nature of a

3979 substitute. It is the Crenshaw Amendment No. 1.

3980 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to

3981 H.R. 7208, offered by Mr. Guthrie.

3982 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading _

3983 oh, excuse me, for the amendment.

3984 Without objection, the reading of the amendment is

3985 dispensed with.

3986 [The amendment of Mr. Guthrie follows:]

3987

3988 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3989

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3990 *Mr. Guthrie. And I will recognize myself for five
3991 minutes to speak on the amendment.

3992 I am offering this AINS for the Traumatic Brain Injury
3993 Authorization Act. I want to speak in support of the
3994 amendment, which is sponsored by Representatives Pascrell and
3995 Bacon.

3996 There are true leaders in combating TBI. To give you an
3997 idea, five million Americans live with TBI. For military,
3998 the estimate is that 30 percent of our service members
3999 experienced some type of brain injury, and a similar number
4000 for law enforcement.

4001 Here is why it matters. We know that _ we know post-
4002 traumatic stress disorder and suicide are linked to TBI. It
4003 is estimated that one-third of veterans have PTSD, and almost
4004 one-fifth of police officers have PTSD. They face a lifetime
4005 of issues, and the least we can do is fund more research and
4006 support those who are injured. That is why reauthorizing
4007 programs to support people with TBI is so important. The
4008 research helps everyone.

4009 We also have to do more. We have to make sure our best
4010 information doesn't sit in an agency in Washington, D.C., and
4011 we also have to connect people to that research and continue

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4012 to update the best practices for preventing, identifying, and
4013 treating TBI.

4014 This amendment makes necessary technical changes while
4015 ensuring the existing program is more focused on delivering
4016 targeted research and results. It is also our government _
4017 it also focuses our government on the issues of chronic brain
4018 injury.

4019 And I can yield to the gentleman from Texas.

4020 You may want your own time, or I can _ yield to speak on
4021 it? Okay, you can speak on it. I did go through some of the
4022 talking points, but you are welcome _ you are recognized to
4023 speak on it.

4024 *Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, running
4025 between hearings.

4026 I am offering this AINS for the Traumatic Brain Injury
4027 Reauthorization Act, which is sponsored by Representatives
4028 Pascrell and Bacon, and because I know I have so many friends
4029 who have suffered from traumatic brain injury. They serve
4030 our armed _ they served in our armed forces, they served in
4031 law enforcement, and now they live with these injuries for
4032 many years after their service.

4033 To give you an idea, five million Americans live with

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4034 TBI. For military, the estimate is 30 percent of our service
4035 members have experienced some kind of brain injury. And it
4036 is similar for law enforcement. And this matters because we
4037 know post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide are linked to
4038 TBIs. It is estimated that a third of veterans have PTSD and
4039 almost one-fifth of police officers. They face a lifetime of
4040 issues, and it is essential that we fund more research and
4041 support for those who are injured. That is why reauthorizing
4042 programs to support people with TBI is so important. The
4043 research helps everyone.

4044 But we have to do more. We have to make sure our best
4045 information doesn't sit in an agency in Washington, D.C., and
4046 we also have to connect people to that research and continue
4047 to update the best practices for preventing, identifying, and
4048 treating TBI.

4049 So this amendment makes necessary technical changes
4050 while ensuring that the existing program is more focused on
4051 delivering targeted research and results. It also focuses
4052 our government on the issues of chronic brain injury.

4053 One of the worst diseases we see in people with TBIs is
4054 the terrible brain disorder known as CTE, or chronic
4055 traumatic encephalopathy. This disease is basically

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4056 dementia. The brain damaged compounds over time, and the
4057 brain function degenerates.

4058 So it is critical we ensure that our government is
4059 caught up on the latest science, and this amendment does just
4060 that, and I would ask everyone to support it.

4061 Thank you, and I yield back.

4062 *Mr. Guthrie. The gentleman yields back to me, and I
4063 yield back. Any further discussion?

4064 If there is no further discussion on the amendment, the
4065 vote occurs on the amendment.

4066 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

4067 All those opposed, nay.

4068 The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to.

4069 Are there any other bipartisan amendments?

4070 Any other amendments?

4071 Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R.
4072 7208, as amended, to the full committee.

4073 All those in favor shall say aye.

4074 Those opposed, no.

4075 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

4076 The chair calls up H.R. 7406, and asks the clerk to
4077 report.

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4078 *The Clerk. H.R. 7406, a bill to amend the Public
4079 Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and
4080 Human Services to carry out a program of research _

4081 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the first reading of
4082 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
4083 amendment at any point.

4084 So ordered.

4085 [The bill follows:]

4086

4087 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4088

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4089 *Mr. Guthrie. Does anybody seek recognition on the
4090 bill?

4091 The gentlelady from Washington is recognized, the chair
4092 is recognized.

4093 *The Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
4094 amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk.

4095 *Mr. Guthrie. The clerk will report the amendment.

4096 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
4097 H.R. 7406, offered by Chair Rodgers.

4098 *Mr. Guthrie. Without objection, the reading of the
4099 amendment is dispensed with.

4100 [The amendment of The Chair follows:]

4101

4102 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4103

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4104 *Mr. Guthrie. And the chair is recognized for five
4105 minutes in support of her amendment.

4106 *The Chair. I wanted to speak in support of the
4107 amendment and the underlying bill, H.R. 7406, the DeOndra
4108 Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2024, which makes technical
4109 changes to the legislation.

4110 I am proud to lead this bill, along with Representatives
4111 Diana DeGette, Tom Cole, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Rosa DeLauro,
4112 and Pete Stauber.

4113 This is a deeply personal issue for me. As many of you
4114 know, my oldest son, Cole, was born with an extra twenty-
4115 first chromosome, commonly known as Down syndrome. Just as a
4116 side note, Down syndrome is named after Dr. John Langdon
4117 Down, who identified the common characteristics in the mid-
4118 1800s.

4119 A few days after Cole was born, I remember the doctor
4120 telling my husband and me about the long list of challenges
4121 Cole would face. It was so difficult to hear, and we cried
4122 tears out of a fear of the unknown. But, you know, they
4123 couldn't have been more wrong. Today Cole is a fun-loving
4124 16-year-old with big dreams. And I can honestly say I have
4125 cried the tears of joy for the gift of Cole. And being able

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4126 to see the world through his eyes has made me a better mom
4127 and a better legislator.

4128 For decades, Down syndrome research has been
4129 dramatically under-funded, despite 1 in every 400 babies in
4130 the United States being born with it. As a proud mom of one
4131 of those children, I am committed to changing and empowering
4132 individuals with Down syndrome to live more full and
4133 independent lives. And I am reminded every day the Down
4134 syndrome community is full of potential just waiting to be
4135 unleashed.

4136 I would also like to emphasize again that this research
4137 will not just benefit individuals with Down syndrome, but the
4138 millions of people who battle other co-occurring conditions
4139 and related diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and heart
4140 conditions that are common among, but not hardly limited to,
4141 people with Down syndrome.

4142 So while some of us may not know someone with Down
4143 syndrome, let alone have a close family member like Cole, I
4144 am sure we all know someone who has Alzheimer's or dementia
4145 or who has been diagnosed with cancer. Researchers have
4146 found unique patterns of cancer in those with Down syndrome.
4147 Children with Down syndrome have a ten to twentyfold higher

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4148 risk for developing types of leukemia compared to children
4149 without Down syndrome, although they do not have an increased
4150 risk of developing solid tumors. Individuals with Down
4151 syndrome are at an increased risk for Alzheimer's disease,
4152 with dementia becoming a leading cause of death for people
4153 with Down syndrome.

4154 Authorizing the INCLUDE Project will help ensure the
4155 research, activities, and resources to support the Down
4156 syndrome community and all those individuals who will benefit
4157 from advancements made will continue to flourish.

4158 In 1983 the average life span of a person with Down
4159 syndrome was 25 years. While today it has increased to
4160 approximately 60 years, there is more we can do. I remain
4161 excited about the endless possibilities that will flow from
4162 this project, and ask for your support in this important
4163 legislation.

4164 I yield back.

4165 *Mr. Guthrie. The chair yields back. Is there any
4166 further discussion on the amendment?

4167 Seeing none, are there any further amendments?

4168 Oh, excuse me, seeing no further discussion, the vote
4169 occurs on the amendment.

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4170 And all those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

4171 All those opposed, nay.

4172 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

4173 Are there any further amendments?

4174 The question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 7406, as
4175 amended, to the full committee.

4176 All those in favor, say aye.

4177 All those opposed, no.

4178 The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.

4179 Without objection, the staff is authorized to make
4180 technical and conforming changes to the legislation approved
4181 by the subcommittee today.

4182 So ordered.

4183 Without objection, the subcommittee stands adjourned.

4184 [Whereupon, at 12:43 p.m., the subcommittee was
4185 adjourned.]