

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement
of
Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Gene Green
July 12, 2018

Full Committee Markup

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today's full committee markup.

One of the bills we will be considering today is H.R. 5385, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act, which I was proud to introduce with our subcommittee chairman, Dr. Burgess, earlier this year.

The CHGME Program provides needed funding to train our nation's pediatric workforce, including pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists, which are greatly needed in many communities around the country.

Our legislation would reauthorize the CHGME Program for five years at \$325 million annually, a \$25 million increase over current levels.

As of today, our bipartisan legislation has 73 cosponsors and support from outside stakeholders, including the American Hospital Association and the Children's Hospital Association.

Dr. Burgess and I will be offering an amendment to name the bill after Dr. Benjy Frances Brooks. Dr. Brooks was the first pediatric surgeon in Texas and very deserving of this recognition.

I ask all the Members of our proud committee to join Dr. Burgess and I and vote in support of this important legislation.

I will be proudly supporting the other public health bills that will be considered this morning, including H.R. 1676 the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, introduced by Rep. Engel.

I am a cosponsor of this legislation, which will help create an infrastructure to improve palliative care training for health care providers and encourage NIH to expand its research on palliative care.

In addition, I ask for my colleagues to support H.R. 959, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act. This legislation, introduced by Reps. Matsui and Joyce, will reauthorize important federal nursing workforce development grant programs, including the Advanced Nursing Grant and the Nursing Workforce Diversity Program.

Title VIII nursing workforce programs have long enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and I look forward to their prompt reauthorization.

I am a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1320, the Nuclear Utilization of Keynote Energy Act. Introduced by Mr. Doyle and Mr. Kinzinger, the bill makes several drastically necessary changes to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's budget and fee structure, as well as the license applications process.

As we lose more and more zero emission clean energy sources with the closure of nuclear plants across the country, the NRC fee structure places an undue financial burden on the plants which remain in operation. It is important that we address this issue now and give existing nuclear plants a fee framework that reflects the 21st century.

I am proud to support this bill and commend the excellent work done by my colleagues Mr. Doyle and Mr. Kinzinger. I am pleased that the other energy and environment bills that we are considering today have all advanced in a bipartisan manner.

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