



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

January 23, 2015

To: Energy and Commerce Committee Members

From: Majority Staff

Re: Examining Public Health Legislation to Help Patients and Local Communities

On January 27, 2015, at 10:15 a.m. in 2322 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled “Examining Public Health Legislation to Help Patients and Local Communities.”

The following memorandum provides background on the hearing witnesses and legislation that will be reviewed during the hearing.

I. WITNESSES

- Ben D. Chlapek, Deputy Chief, Central Jackson County Fire, Blue Springs, Missouri;
- John L. Eadie, Director, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Center of Excellence, Brandeis University;
- Blaine L. Enderson, MD, Department of Surgery, University of Tennessee Medical Center;
- Nathan B. Fountain, MD, Professor of Neurology, Director of F.E. Dreifuss Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, *on behalf of* Epilepsy Foundation; and,
- D. Linden Barber, Partner and Director, DEA Compliance Operations, Quarles & Brady.

II. LEGISLATION

A. **Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act**

The Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act (to be introduced by Rep. Kinzinger) would establish a demonstration program for States with a shortage of Emergency Medical Technicians to streamline their procedures to assist military medics in meeting State requirements for civil licensing and certification. It is based on H.R. 235, which passed the House during the 113th Congress.

B. **National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act**

The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act (to be introduced by Rep. Whitfield) would establish a grant program for States to administer prescription drug monitoring programs to ensure that appropriate law enforcement, regulatory, and State professional licensing authorities have access to prescription drug history information to investigate drug diversion and abuse.

C. Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act

The Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act (to be introduced by Rep. Burgess and Rep. Green) would reauthorize Trauma Care Systems Planning Grants, which support State and rural development of trauma systems. It also would reauthorize pilot projects to implement and assess regionalized emergency care models. The legislation is based on H.R. 4080, which passed the House during the 113th Congress.

D. Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act

The Access to Life-Saving Trauma Care for All Americans Act (to be introduced by Rep. Burgess and Rep. Green) would reauthorize Trauma Center Care Grants. These grants aid hospitals in handling their substantial uncompensated care costs from traumatic injuries.

E. Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act

The Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act (to be introduced by Chairman Pitts and Rep. Pallone) would amend the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to require the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to act on a recommendation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to add a drug or substance that has never been marketed in the United States to a schedule of controlled substances within a specified period. Currently, new drug and substances that previously have not been marketed in the United States and that have abuse potential must be scheduled under the CSA by the DEA prior to being marketed. The CSA currently provides no deadline for the DEA to act after receiving a recommendation. The amount of time the DEA has taken before acting on FDA recommendations has increased significantly in recent years, delaying the availability of these drugs and substances to patients. The legislation is based on H.R. 4299, which passed the Committee during the 113th Congress.

F. H.R. 471 Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act

H.R. 471, The Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act introduced by Rep. Marino, Rep. Blackburn, Rep. Welch, and Rep. Chu would help prevent prescription drug abuse, establish clear and consistent enforcement standards, and ensure patients have access to medications by promoting collaboration among government agencies, patients, and industry stakeholders. The bill is based on H.R. 4069, which passed the House in the 113th Congress.

III. CONCLUSION

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