

E&C Health Opioid Member Day Remarks

October 11, 2017

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- I'd first like to thank you, Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member Green, for holding this Member Day today.
- The opioid epidemic claims the lives of 91 Americans a day.
- Every one of those 91 deaths affects not only the victim who has lost their life, but also their loved ones, their workplace, and their community.
- Now is the time for us to come together and find solutions to end this national health emergency.

- With that in mind, I would like to speak in favor of four common-sense proposals that I am leading, each with a great Republican partner and aimed at addressing a different aspect of the opioid epidemic.
- The first is the YOUTH Act, which I introduced with my colleague from Indiana, Dr. Buchson.
- The opioid epidemic has had a tragic impact on our young people.
- From harmful changes in brain and social development, to long gaps in education and job training—the effects can be profound.
- The YOUTH Act would expand access to evidence-based medication assisted treatment for adolescents and young adults, giving them the best possible chance at recovery.

- The second proposal is the Prescriber Support Act, which I introduced with my colleague, Congressman Jenkins.
- Tragically, opioid addiction often begins in a doctor's office, where patients are often prescribed more medication than they need, or without being informed about the risks of addiction.
- The Prescriber Support Act would establish state-based resources for prescribers to consult when making decisions about prescribing opioids.
- Third, I recently introduced the Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act with my colleague from Oklahoma, Congressman Mullin.
- This proposal would ensure that all prescriptions for controlled substances filled

through Medicare part D would be transmitted electronically.

- Electronic transmission would help doctors and pharmacists spot patients attempting to doctor-shop, and it would make it more difficult to forge a prescription—all while saving taxpayer dollars.
- Finally, I will soon be introducing a bill with my colleague from Kentucky, Congressman Hal Rogers, that will create a student loan forgiveness program for professionals who enter, and stay, in the substance use treatment field.
- In my district, I have heard time and time again from families and providers that there simply aren't enough treatment specialists available to help the growing number of Americans struggling with substance use disorder.

- Our bill will help build this critical workforce.
- There is no single solution to the opioid crisis. However, these four bipartisan solutions can help put us on a path to beating this epidemic.
- I thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for giving us the opportunity to have this conversation, and I look forward to working together.