



MEMORANDUM

June 27, 2022

**To: Subcommittee on Health Members and Staff**

**Fr: Committee on Energy and Commerce Staff**

**Re: Legislative Hearing on “Investing in Public Health: Legislation to Support Patients, Workers, and Research”**

On Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 11 a.m. (EDT), in the John D. Dingell Room, 2123, of the Rayburn House Office Building, and via Cisco WebEx online video conferencing, the Subcommittee on Health will hold a legislative hearing entitled, “Investing in Public Health: Legislation to Support Patients, Workers, and Research.” The hearing will focus on 11 bills that support public health workers, protect patients, and foster continued innovation and biomedical research.

**I. LEGISLATION**

**A. H.R. 2007, the “Stephanie Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act of 2021”**

H.R. 2007, the “Stephanie Tubbs Jones Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. Clarke (D-NY), Robin Kelly (D-IL), Watson Coleman (D-NJ), and David Scott (D-GA), would enhance research and awareness of uterine fibroids, which are tumors that develop in the wall of the uterus and may lead to serious health complications. The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to expand research on uterine fibroids at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies and authorizes \$30 million annually for fiscal year (FY) 2023 through FY 2026 for this purpose. It also directs the Secretary of HHS to establish a research database to collect data on services provided to individuals with uterine fibroids under the Medicaid program. The bill requires the Secretary to develop a public education program and to provide evidence-based information to health care providers with respect to uterine fibroids.

**B. H.R. 3773, the “Pediatricians Accelerate Childhood Therapies Act of 2021” or the “PACT Act of 2021”**

H.R. 3773, the “PACT Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. John Joyce (R-PA) and Schrier (D-WA), requires NIH to make awards to support early-career pediatric researchers. The bill describes priority research populations, which have been historically underrepresented in pediatric medical research, and priority research topic areas. The bill also authorizes the Trans-

NIH Pediatric Research Consortium to coordinate pediatric research across all NIH pediatric research programs.

**C. H.R. 5141, the “Maximizing Outcomes through Better Investments in Lifesaving Equipment for (MOBILE) Health Care Act”**

H.R. 5141, the “Maximizing Outcomes through Better Investments in Lifesaving Equipment for (MOBILE) Health Care Act,” introduced by Reps. Susie Lee (D-NV), Hudson (R-NC), Ruiz (D-CA), and Herrera Beutler (R-WA), would allow Federally Qualified Health Centers to use New Access Point grants for establishing mobile health units, building renovation, and acquisition and construction costs to increase access to health care in rural and underserved communities.

**D. H.R. 5442, the “Fix Nondisclosure of Influence in Health Research Act”**

H.R. 5442, the “Fix Nondisclosure of Influence in Health Research Act,” introduced by Rep. Curtis (R-UT), seeks to address undue foreign influence in health research. The bill requires the Secretary of HHS to submit an annual report to Congress on actions taken to: (1) address cases of research misconduct related to foreign influence; (2) document the number of potential cases reported to NIH, cases referred to law enforcement agencies, and enforcement actions taken; and (3) prevent, address, and mitigate research misconduct related to foreign influence.

**E. H.R. 5478, the “Protecting the Integrity of our Biomedical Research Act of 2021”**

H.R. 5478, the “Protecting the Integrity of our Biomedical Research Act of 2021,” introduced by Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL), requires intramural and extramural grantees funded by NIH to disclose participation in foreign talent programs, which includes providing to NIH copies of all grants, contracts, or other agreements related to their participation in such programs. In general, foreign talent programs are programs in which foreign states attempt to acquire U.S. scientific research or technology through recruitment programs that target scientists, engineers, academics, researchers, and entrepreneurs of all nationalities working or educated in the United States.

**F. H.R. 6305, the “Protect America’s Biomedical Research Enterprise Act of 2021”**

H.R. 6305, the “Protect America’s Biomedical Research Enterprise Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. Hudson and Trone (D-MD), tasks HHS with developing a framework for assessing and managing national security risks related to biomedical research and implementing controls to ensure appropriate data access. It requires the Secretary of HHS to consult with the National Security Advisor, the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the FBI, and the heads of other relevant agencies, research institutions and advocacy groups, to: (1) identify ways to improve the protection of intellectual property and other types of sensitive information in biomedical research; (2) develop strategies to address national security threats in biomedical

research; (3) make recommendations to protect proprietary information from potential misuse that may pose national security risks, and (4) develop a framework to identify areas of federally supported biomedical research that are emerging areas of interest for adversaries. Additionally, it instructs the Secretary to regularly review policies made under this bill and provide updates as well as submit a report to the President and relevant congressional committees that addresses the findings and recommendations of this bill.

**G. H.R. 7565, the “NIH Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Act of 2022” or the “NIH IMPROVE Act”**

H.R. 7565, the “NIH IMPROVE Act,” introduced by Reps. Underwood (D-IL) and Herrera Beutler (R-WA), would continue to fund the IMPROVE Initiative through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The IMPROVE Initiative seeks to advance research that reduces maternal mortality and morbidity, addresses disparities in maternal health outcomes, and improves health for pregnant and postpartum individuals before, during, and after pregnancy. The Director of NIH may also award grants for the purposes of carrying out such research. The bill authorizes \$30 million annually for FY 2023 through FY 2027.

**H. H.R. 7845, the “NIH Clinical Trial Diversity Act of 2022”**

H.R. 7845, the “NIH Clinical Trial Diversity Act of 2022,” introduced by Reps. Robin Kelly, Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Cárdenas (D-CA), Butterfield (D-NC), and Clarke, would require a sponsor seeking to conduct an NIH funded clinical trial investigating a drug, device, or biological product to submit an application that includes: (1) clear and measurable goals for the recruitment and retention of diverse participants based on disease/condition prevalence; (2) rationale for the goals that specifies how investigators measure diversity in the group of participants; (3) a detailed plan for how the clinical trial will achieve the outlined goals; (4) the sponsor’s plan for implementing, or an explanation of why the sponsor cannot implement, alternative clinical trial follow-up requirements that are less burdensome for trial participants; and (5) the sponsor’s education and training requirements for researchers and other individuals conducting or supporting the clinical trial with respect to diversity and health inequities. The legislation would also launch a public awareness campaign across federal agencies related to research participation opportunities. The bill authorizes \$10 million annually for FY 2023 through FY 2027.

**I. H.R. 8151, the “Building a Sustainable Workforce for Healthy Communities Act of 2022”**

H.R. 8151, the “Building a Sustainable Workforce for Healthy Communities Act of 2022,” introduced by Rep. Ruiz, would award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to promote positive health behaviors and outcomes for populations in medically underserved communities through the use of community health workers. The grants are proposed to serve areas with populations that have a high rate of chronic disease, infant mortality, and maternal morbidity and mortality as well as populations residing in health professional shortage areas and other populations.

**J. H.R. 8163, the “Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act of 2022”**

H.R. 8163, the “Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act of 2022,” introduced by Rep. O’Halloran (D-AZ), reauthorizes through FY 2027 grants for trauma care to support the improvement of emergency medical services and trauma care readiness and coordination. The bill requires the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to develop guidance for and otherwise support states—and consortia of states—to coordinate and improve emergency medical services and trauma care during declared emergencies. The bill also expands eligibility and revises grants for improving emergency medical services and trauma care in rural areas and competitive grants for improving regional emergency medical and trauma systems.

**K. H.R. 8169, the “Rural Telehealth Access Task Force Act”**

H.R. 8169, the “Rural Telehealth Access Task Force Act,” introduced by Reps. Pence (R-IN) and Craig (D-MN), establishes a task force to study how to address barriers to the adoption of telehealth technology and access to broadband internet access service in rural areas. The Task Force is composed of the Secretary of HHS, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, Secretary of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Federal Communications Commission, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Task Force must submit a report to Congress no later than 18 months after the date of enactment detailing its findings and recommendations.

**II. WITNESSES**

The following witnesses have been invited to testify:

**Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, Ph.D., M.D., M.A.S.**

Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Lee Goldman, M.D. Professor of Medicine

University of California, San Francisco

**Kevin Croston, M.D.**

CEO

North Memorial Health

**Tanika Gray Valbrun**

Founder and President

The White Dress Project

**Michael D. Shannon**

Executive/President of Government Solutions  
IPTalons, Inc.

**Desiree Sweeney**

CEO  
NEW Health

**Leslie R. Walker-Harding, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.S.A.H.M.**

Ford/Morgan Endowed Professor  
Chair Department of Pediatrics/Associate Dean  
University of Washington  
Chief Academic Officer/Senior Vice President  
Seattle Children's Hospital