

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Full Committee Markup on Public Health Legislation
September 23, 2010

Today the Committee will be considering 16 bills that address a wide range of public health issues and enjoy bi-partisan support.

The following is a brief description:

- H.R. 758, the Pediatric Research Consortia Establishment Act, allows the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director to establish pediatric research consortia across the country to help focus and coordinate research on pediatric diseases. The bill was introduced by Rep. DeGette.
- H.R. 1032, the Heart Disease Education, Analysis Research, and Treatment for Women Act, sponsored by Rep. Capps, is designed to provide necessary resources to address the problem of heart disease among women, the number one cause of death among women in this country.
- H.R. 1210, the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act of 2009, focuses training and research efforts on arthritis, a disease that affects hundreds of thousands of Americans. This bill is the work of Rep. Eshoo, who will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute to reflect the compromise worked out to move the bill forward.
- H.R. 1230, the Bone Marrow Failure Disease Research and Treatment Act of 2009, addresses the need to improve research and treatment efforts for individuals with bone marrow disease. Rep. Matsui has championed this legislation.
- H.R. 1347, the Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act, is sponsored by Rep. Pascrell. It focuses on the growing concern about concussions and other serious head injuries among school-aged children. An amendment to make minor and technical changes to the bill will be offered to this legislation by Rep. Pallone.
- H.R. 1362, the National MS and Parkinson's Disease Registries Act, is designed to improve our understanding of two neurological diseases, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. Reps. Van Hollen and Burgess have worked long and hard – together – on this bill.

- H.R. 1995, Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2009, addresses the growing concern about diabetes and its disproportionate impact on minority populations. It was introduced by Rep. DeGette.
- H.R. 2408, the Scleroderma Research Act of 2009, provides specific authority to the NIH Director to support research on scleroderma, a chronic systemic autoimmune disease. This bill was authored by Rep. Capps.
- H.R. 2818, the Methamphetamine Education, Treatment, and Hope Act, sponsored by Rep. McNerney, provides support for family-centered services for meth addiction and other substance abuse among pregnant women and mothers.
- H.R. 2941, Johanna's Law Reauthorization, authored by Rep. DeLauro, reauthorizes and expands Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programs to educate women and health care providers about gynecologic cancers.
- H.R. 2999, the Veterinary Public Health Workforce and Education Act, provides resources to help increase the nation's supply of public health veterinarians. The bill was introduced and championed by Rep. Baldwin. Rep. Pallone has also been a strong supporter. Ms. Baldwin will offer an amendment to make a technical change to the bill.
- H.R. 5354, the Gestational Diabetes Act of 2009, is sponsored by Rep. Engel. It targets resources at gestational diabetes, a form of diabetes that traditionally receives far less attention and fewer resources than other types of this disease.
- H.R. 5462, the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2010, addresses the ongoing need to provide pregnant women and their health care providers with counseling and clinical information about maternal exposures that may adversely affect pregnancy outcomes. It was introduced by Rep. DeLauro.
- H.R. 5986, sponsored by Rep. Henry Johnson, requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop a report on neglected infectious diseases of poverty in the United States.
- H.R. 6012, Diabetes Screening Utilization, requires HHS to conduct a utilization review of existing HHS diabetes screening programs. The bill is the work of Rep. Space.
- H.R. 6081, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2010, reauthorizes the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program. It was introduced by Rep. Bill Young and has the strong support of Rep. Matsui, who will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute that includes a number of improvements to the bill.

I would like to thank Mr. Barton and Mr. Shimkus, and their staff, for working with us to move these important bills toward becoming law. Majority and minority staff worked together,

along with each bill's sponsors, to reach agreement on each bill, the amendments made in subcommittee, and those amendments that will be offered today. It truly has been a bipartisan effort, and I think we are all very pleased with the outcome.

The other item on the agenda is a resolution of inquiry introduced by Rep. Burgess demanding certain documents from the Secretary of Health and Human Services. I do not agree with Rep. Burgess about the need for this resolution, but the majority and minority have been in productive discussions about this measure, and I will address it in further detail when the Committee turns to it later in the markup.

I look forward to continuing to work together with all members of this Committee on the health issues before us today and on other matters across the Committee's jurisdiction.