

**ENERGY & COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH:
COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS: PREVENTION AND PUBLIC
HEALTH SOLUTIONS**

On March 21 and 22 the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health held a two-day [hearing](#) titled, “Combating the Opioid Crisis: Prevention and Public Health Solutions.” The hearing included 19 witnesses divided across four panels and addressed 22 pieces of proposed or pending opioid-related legislation. For quick reference, we have consolidated the most relevant information about each bill into the table below, which accompanies our broader summary.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Legislation			
Bill	Summary	Sponsor	Status
H.R. 449 – Synthetic Drug Awareness Act (Text)	Requires Surgeon General to report on synthetic drugs’ public health impact on youth ages 12-18	Rep. Jeffries (D-NY) 42 Cosponsors	Introduced 1/11/2017; Referred to Subcommittee on Health 1/25/2017
H.R. 5002 – Advancing Cutting Edge (ACE) Research Act (Text)	Grants NIH flexible authority to research new, non-addictive pain medications	Rep. Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Upton (R-MI); 2 Cosponsors	Introduced 2/13/2018
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, FDA Accelerated Approval and Breakthrough Therapy Status (Text)	Opens the FDA’s accelerated approval program and breakthrough therapy pathway to expedite the development and review of pain and addiction therapies	N/A	Discussion Draft
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, FDA Opioid Sparing (Text)	Required FDA to update or issue guidance addressing alternative methods for data collection on opioid sparing and inclusion of such data in produce labeling. <i>Opioid sparing is defined as the development of novel, non-addictive analgesics and utilization of currently available non-addictive analgesics that may replace, delay, or reduce use of opioids</i>	Rep. Comstock (R-VA)	Discussion Draft

Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, FDA Packaging and Disposal (Text)	Directs FDA to work with manufacturers to establish programs for efficient return or destruction of unused Schedule II drugs, with an emphasis on opioids. Facilitates utilization of packaging to reduce opioid overprescribing. Requires GAO to study safe disposal of unused opioids and other medications.	Rep. Hudson (R-NC)	Discussion Draft
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, FDA and International Mail (Text)	Streamlines and enhances FDA's tools to intercept illegal products including illicit or unapproved drugs entering the U.S through International Mail Facilities	Rep. Blackburn (R-TN)	Discussion Draft
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, FDA Misuse/Abuse (Text)	Clarifies and strengthens FDA authority to consider misuse and abuse when determining if overall benefits outweigh risks as part of the drug approval and assessment process for opioids	Rep. Green (D-TX)	Discussion Draft
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, FDA Long-term Efficacy (Text)	Enhances FDA authority and enforcement tools to ensure timely post-marketing studies for chronically administered opioids in light of currently limited data regarding long-term efficacy of opioids, increased addictive tendencies over time, and their overall place in treating pain	Rep. McNerney (D-CA)	Discussion Draft
An Amendment in the Nature of a Substitution (AINS) to HR 4284 – Indexing Narcotics, Fentanyl, and Opioids (INFO) Act	Directs HHS to create a public and easily accessible electronic dashboard linking to all nationwide efforts to combat the opioid crisis. Creates an Interagency Substance Use Disorder Coordinating Committee	Rep. Latta (R-OH)	N/A
H.R. 5272 – Reinforcing Evidence-Based Standards Under Law in Treating Substance Abuse Act (Text)	Requires entities applying for federal mental health or SUD funding to submit materials demonstrating that the proposed programs or activities are evidence-based	Rep. Stivers (R-OH) and Rep. Engel (D-NY); 4 Cosponsors	Introduced 3/14/2018
H.R. 5009 – Jessie's Law (Text)	Directs HHS to implement standards for display of opioid addiction in medical records	Rep. Walberg (R-MI) 14 Cosponsors	Introduced 3/17/2017
AINS to HR 3545 – Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act	Would permit SUD records to be shared for the purposes of treatment, but would enhance penalties and notification requirements in the event of an unlawful disclosure, and provide discrimination prohibitions to protect people seeking and receiving SUD treatment.	Rep. Mullin (R-OK)	N/A

Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, A Bill to Enhance and Improve State-run Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (Text)	Authorizes the CDC to carry out certain controlled substances overdose prevention and surveillance activities to improve data collection, timeliness, and accuracy for providers and dispensers in state-run prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs).	Rep. Griffin (R-VA) and Rep. Pallone (D-NJ)	Discussion Draft
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, Poison Center Network Enhancement Act (Text)	Reauthorizes the national network of Poison Control Centers that serve as the primary resource for poisoning information. These centers reduce ER visits and report year over year increases in all analgesic exposures, including opioids and sedatives.	Rep. Brooks (R-IN) and Rep. Engel (D-NY)	Discussion Draft
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, Eliminating Opioid-Related Infectious Diseases Act (Text)	Authorizes CDC to undertake an injection drug use-associated infection elimination initiative and work with states to improve education, surveillance, and treatment of infections associated with injection drug-use.	Rep. Lance (R-NJ); Rep. Kennedy (D-MA); Rep. Collins (R-NY); Rep. Eshoo (D-CA); Rep. Barton (R-TX); Rep. Matsui (D-CA)	Discussion Draft
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, A Bill to Improve Fentanyl Testing and Surveillance (Text)	Authorizes grants to federal, state, and local agencies for the establishment or operation of public health laboratories to detect fentanyl, its analogs, and other synthetic opioids.	Rep. Kuster (D-NH)	Discussion Draft
H.R. 5261 – Treatment, Education, and Community Help (TEACH) to Combat Addiction Act (Text)	Authorizes HHS to designate and support Centers of Excellence and institutions of learning that champion SUD treatment and pain management education to improve how health professionals are taught about both SUD and pain.	Rep. Johnson (R-OH) and Rep. Tonko (D-NY); 1 cosponsor	Introduced 3/13/2018
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act (Text)	Establishes Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORCs) to serve as models for comprehensive treatment and recovery, utilizing the full range of FDA-approved medications and evidence-based treatments.	Rep. Guthrie (R-KY) and Rep. Green (D-TX)	Discussion Draft
H.R. 4684, Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act (Text)	Authorizes SAMHSA to develop, publish, and disseminate best practices for operating recovery housing that promotes a safe environment and sustained recovery from SUD.	Rep. Chu (D-CA), Rep. Walters (R-CA), Rep. Bilirakis (R-FL), and Rep. Ruiz (D-CA); 10 cosponsors	Introduced 12/22/2017
Discussion Draft of H.R. ___, A Bill to Support the Peer Support Specialist Workforce (Text)	Enhances CARA’s Building Communities of Recovery Program and authorizes HHS to award grants to peer support specialist organizations for the development and expansion of recovery services.	Rep. Lujan (D-NM) and Rep. Johnson (R-OH)	Discussion Draft

H.R. 5176 – Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms Act (Text)	Provides resources for hospitals to develop protocols on discharging patients who have presented with an opioid overdose, addressing the provision of naloxone upon discharge, connection with peer-support specialists, and the referral to treatment and other services that best fit the patient’s needs.	Rep. McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Doyle (D-PA)	Introduced 3/9/2018
H.R. 5197 – Alternatives to Opioids in the Emergency Department Act (Text)	Establishes a demonstration program to test alternative pain management protocols to limit to use of opioids in hospital emergency departments.	Rep. Pascrell (D-NJ) and Rep. McKinley (R-WV); 2 cosponsors	Introduced 3/7/2018
H.R. 5140 – Tribal Addiction and Recovery Act (Text)	Makes tribes, like states, eligible to be direct grantees of “State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants” to fight the opioid epidemic in Indian Country. Tribes would receive their own \$25 million allocation.	Rep. Mullin (R-OK); 2 cosponsors	Introduced 3/1/2018
H.R. 5102 – Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act (Text)	Creates a program to offer student loan repayment of up to \$250,000 for a wide range of health professionals who agree to work as a SUD treatment professional in areas most in need of their services.	Rep. Clark (D-MA), Rep. Rogers (R-KY), Rep. Sarbanes (D-MD), and Rep. Guthrie (R-KY); 5 cosponsors	Introduced 2/27/2018
AINS to HR 3692 – Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act	Expands access to MAT by allowing clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists to prescribe buprenorphine and permanently authorizes non-physician providers to prescribe buprenorphine. Would also codify regulations that increased the cap on the number of patients a physician can treat with buprenorphine to 275 patients.	Rep. Tonko (D-NY) and Rep. Lujan (D-NM)	N/A