

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 1344, H.R. 1462, H.R. 1725, and H.R. 2820
July 23, 2015

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Our top responsibility in Congress is to help and protect families and local communities. In the 113th Congress this committee advanced more than two dozen bills to strengthen the public health that were ultimately signed into law. This year we have already seen H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, become law, in addition to moving the 21st Century Cures Act through the full House with a strong bipartisan vote.

It is bills like these that have a real, positive impact on families back home in Michigan and across the country. Today we continue our commitment to public health with the consideration of four important, bipartisan bills to help infants and children, work to fight prescription drug abuse, and support continued life-saving research.

H.R. 1344, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2015, introduced by Subcommittee Vice Chairman Guthrie and Rep. Capps, would reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis and treatment for deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

H.R. 1462, the Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, introduced by Reps. Katherine Clark and Steve Stivers and its Senate Companion, S. 799 introduced by Senate Majority Leader McConnell, would address the increasing problem of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

H.R. 1725, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2015, introduced by Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Bucshon, Ranking Member Pallone and Mr. Kennedy, would establish a grant program for States to administer prescription drug monitoring programs.

H.R. 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act, introduced by Reps. Smith and Matsui, would reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act. Stem cells from both cord blood and bone marrow are used to treat nearly eighty life-threatening diseases including cancer, blood diseases, and immune disorders. This bill would provide federal support for cord blood donation, a national bone marrow registry, and research essential to increasing patient access to transplants.

I thank the sponsors for their hard work and support each of the bills that are before us today. I look forward to advancing these bills and growing our committee's record of success in the 114th Congress.

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