

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 4771, H.R. 4250, H.R. 4701, H.R. 594, H.R. 669, H.R. 4290
June 19, 2014

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today we consider important legislation addressing children's health, muscular dystrophy, Lyme disease, sunscreen ingredients, and anabolic steroids. This subcommittee, under the leadership of Mr. Pitts, has been a workhorse in public health, with more than a dozen bills already signed into law this Congress. We look to build upon this impressive record of bipartisan success.

The subcommittee will first consider H.R. 4771, a bill introduced by Chairman Pitts along with Ranking Member Pallone. Their bill, entitled the "Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act," would allow the DEA to take swift action to ensure that consumers are not harmed by dangerous products that are being falsely marketed as dietary supplements.

Mr. Whitfield and Mr. Dingell have been working hard on H.R. 4250, the Sunscreen Innovation Act. We all should agree that it is unacceptable that the FDA has not approved a new sunscreen ingredient in nearly two decades. Especially as applications have been pending at the agency for years, and that we now have a much better understanding of the deadly consequences of excessive sun exposure. This legislation aims to establish a review process by which pending and new sunscreen applications are reviewed in a predictable and transparent manner. While there still are some outstanding issues we need to resolve, including the timeframes for FDA review of pending and new applications, we are committed to working together in a bipartisan manner to get it right.

H.R. 4701, introduced by Mr. Gibson, would help coordinate the federal government's research and surveillance of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases. It also would ensure that the federal government consults with patients and physicians in their work on these diseases.

H.R. 594, the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments of 2014, was introduced by the Health Subcommittee Vice Chairman, Dr. Burgess, and Mr. Engel. H.R. 594 would address important areas of research to help those living with muscular dystrophy. The MD CARE Act originally was signed into law in December 2001, and it has successfully changed the lives of families affected by all forms of muscular dystrophy.

We will also consider legislation to help us better understand, and enhance awareness about, sudden unexpected infant deaths. H.R. 669, the Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act, was introduced by Mr. Pallone.

Continuing our work on children's health, we will vote on H.R. 4290, the Wakefield Act, which was introduced by Mr. Matheson. The bill would reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program, which focuses on improving the pediatric components of the emergency medical services system.

These are important bills that have a real, profound effect on the lives of Americans across Michigan and the country. I applaud this subcommittee's continued bipartisan commitment to successfully addressing important public health issues.

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