



MEMORANDUM

November 2, 2021

To: Subcommittee on Health Members and Staff

Fr: Committee on Energy and Commerce Staff

Re: Subcommittee Markup of Nine Health Bills

On **Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 10:30 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 markup of the following nine bills:

H.R. 1193, the “Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act” or the “CAROL Act”; **H.R. 1667**, the “Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act”; **H.R. 3297**, the “Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2021”; **H.R. 3320**, the “Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act of 2021”; **H.R. 3537**, the “Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act”; **H.R. 4555**, the “Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act of 2021”; **H.R. 5487**, the “Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education for Autumn Act of 2021” or the “SHINE for Autumn Act of 2021”; **H.R. 5551**, the “Improving the Health of Children Act”; and **H.R. 5561**, the “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Reauthorization Act.”

I. H.R. 1193, THE “CARDIOVASCULAR ADVANCES IN RESEARCH AND OPPORTUNITIES LEGACY ACT” OR THE “CAROL ACT”

H.R. 1193, the “CAROL Act,” introduced by Rep. Barr (R-KY), seeks to expand research on valvular heart disease (VHD) and its treatment. This legislation authorizes a grant program administered by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in collaboration with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to support research on valvular heart disease and for convening a workshop of subject matter experts and stakeholders to identify research needs and treatment guidelines for individuals diagnosed with mitral valve prolapse, a type of VHD. The bill also requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to carry out projects to increase education, awareness, or diagnosis of VHD, and to reduce cardiac deaths caused by VHD. This bill is named in honor of Carol Leavell Barr, wife of Rep. Barr, who died in 2020 of sudden cardiac arrest.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute (AINS) is expected to be offered to amend the requirements of an education and awareness campaign at the CDC, amend the authorization level, and make technical changes.

II. H.R. 1667, THE “DR. LORNA BREEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROTECTION ACT”

H.R. 1667, the “Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act,” introduced by Rep. Wild (D-PA) and 14 original cosponsors, requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants for relevant mental and behavioral health training for health care students, residents, or professionals. This legislation would also require HHS to conduct a campaign to encourage health care providers to seek support and treatment for mental and behavioral health concerns and disseminate best practices to prevent suicide and improve mental health and resiliency among health care providers. In addition, HHS shall award grants to health care providers, including medical professional associations for programs to support mental health and behavioral health needs among health care providers. Finally, the legislation requires HHS to study, develop, and submit policy recommendations to Congress on policies to improve health care professional mental health and prevent burnout. This legislation is named for Dr. Lorna M. Breen, the medical director of the emergency department at New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital, who died of suicide in April 2020.

An AINS is expected to be offered to align the authorization period from five years to three years to be consistent with American Rescue Plan Act activities, make programmatic changes to the scope and timeframe for the grants, require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study to examine duplication of programs across HHS, and make technical changes.

III. H.R. 3297, THE “PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE LOAN REPAYMENT ACT OF 2021”

H.R. 3297, the “Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. Crow (D-CO), Burgess (R-TX), Eshoo (D-CA), and Guthrie (R-KY), would establish a student loan repayment program for public health professionals at HHS. As a condition of participation, recipients must agree to complete a period of full-time employment with a state, tribal, or local public health agency for at least three years. The legislation authorizes \$100 million for fiscal year (FY) 2021 and \$75 million for each of the subsequent years from FY 2022-2026.

An AINS is expected to be offered to make technical changes to the student loan repayment program.

IV. H.R. 3320, THE “ALLIED HEALTH WORKFORCE DIVERSITY ACT OF 2021”

H.R. 3320, the “Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. Rush (D-IL) and Mullin (R-OK), would allow HHS to award grants and contracts to accredited education programs to increase diversity in the physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathology professions. Grants may be used to provide scholarships or stipends and to carry out activities to support recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented groups. The legislation authorizes \$8 million for each FY for five years following enactment.

V. H.R. 3537, THE “ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CRITICAL THERAPIES FOR ALS ACT”

H.R. 3537, the “Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act,” introduced by Rep. Quigley (D-IL) and 99 original cosponsors, would award grants to certain small drug manufacturers to cover the cost of investigational drugs for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, or cure of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), research associated with the investigational drug, and the provision of the investigational drug to patients. Further, the legislation would establish a Public-Private Partnership for Neurodegenerative Diseases to support the development of treatments for ALS and other rare neurodegenerative diseases, require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop and publish an action plan to foster the development of drugs for ALS and other rare neurodegenerative diseases and facilitate access to investigational drugs for such diseases, and creates a grant program at FDA for rare neurodegenerative disease research and development activities. The legislation would authorize \$100 million for each FY from 2022 through 2026.

An AINS is expected to be offered to make technical changes, clarify that those who are eligible for clinical trials would not be eligible for expanded access to investigational drugs provided under the new expanded access grant program, require a GAO study to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs within four years of enactment, among other changes.

VI. H.R. 4555, THE “ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2021”

H.R. 4555, the “Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. Cárdenas (D-CA) and Bilirakis (R-FL), authorizes a public education campaign across all relevant programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase oral health literacy and awareness. The legislation authorizes \$750,000 each year for five years until 2026.

VII. H.R. 5487, THE “STILLBIRTH HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND EDUCATION FOR AUTUMN ACT OF 2021” OR THE “SHINE FOR AUTUMN ACT OF 2021”

H.R. 5487, the “SHINE for Autumn Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. Herrera Beutler (R-WA), Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Mullin, and Castor (D-FL), seeks to improve research and data collection on stillbirths. The bill would authorize grants to states for surveillance and data collection relating to stillbirth and stillbirth risk factors, develop guidelines and education materials for state departments of health, and establish the Perinatal Pathology Fellowship Program at NIH to increase research on stillbirth. The bill is named in honor of Autumn Joy, who was stillborn on July 8, 2011. The legislation authorizes \$9 million for these activities each year for five years until 2026.

VIII. H.R. 5551, THE “IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN ACT”

H.R. 5551, the “Improving the Health of Children Act,” introduced by Reps. Carter (R-GA), Cuellar (D-TX), Trahan (D-MA), Butterfield (D-NC), and Hudson (R-NC), reauthorizes

the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at CDC for five years until 2026. The bill also amends the five-year authorization level for folic acid education and research.

An AINS is expected to be offered to amend the scope of programmatic work and the authorization level for NCBDDD.

IX. H.R. 5561, THE “EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT”

H.R. 5561, the “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Reauthorization Act of 2021,” introduced by Reps. Guthrie and Matsui (D-CA), extends the authorization for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs at HRSA, CDC, and NIH. The legislation authorizes \$17.818 million for activities at HRSA each year from FY 2022-2026, and authorizes \$16 million for activities at CDC each year from FY 2022-2026.