

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act and H.R. 3527, the
Poison Center Network Act
December 10, 2013

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today the subcommittee will consider important bills regarding poison control centers and traumatic brain injury. One of the top priorities of this committee is helping our nation's families and communities, and I am pleased that working together on a bipartisan basis, we have had success. Thus far this Congress, we have sent six public health bills to the president's desk. The bipartisan bills that we consider today will build on that success.

H.R. 3527, the Poison Center Network Act, authored by Mr. Terry, would reauthorize funding for our nation's poison control centers. This issue is of particular importance to me, as I led the successful House effort in 2003. The nation's poison control centers protect lives by providing free and confidential health services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They provide an ever-ready lifeline when a parent needs them most. Poison Centers also help our health system save money, as many of these crisis calls avert an expensive trip to the emergency room. Centers are also an example of a successful public-private partnership with federal funds providing only a small portion of the poison centers budget.

H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, would address a problem that affects millions of Americans, including veterans and children. Introduced by Mr. Pascrell, this bill would assist states in developing and expanding service delivery capacity for individuals with a traumatic brain injury. The bill also would authorize funding for important tracking and prevention activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to some estimates, the economic burden of TBI is in excess of \$70 billion, and the physical and emotional toll endured by patients and their families is even more burdensome. This bill would help alleviate the problems associated with this unique and complex health problem, providing peace of mind to families across the country.

I urge support of both bills.

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