

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Full Committee Markup on Public Health Legislation
July 28, 2010

The bills before us today address a wide range of public health issues. All of them and the amendments that will be introduced during our markup enjoy bipartisan support.

- H.R. 903, the Dental Emergency Responder Act of 2010, amends current law to include dentists and dental facilities as part of various national emergency management and preparedness programs. It has been introduced by Congressman Stupak.
- H.R. 1745, the Family Health Care Accessibility Act of 2010, extends the protection of the Federal Tort Claims Act to those health professionals who volunteer their services at community health centers. Mr. Tim Murphy and Mr. Green have long championed this effort. Mr. Green will offer an amendment to the bill to expand and clarify the description of the health services that may be covered.
- H.R. 2923, the Combat Methamphetamine Enhancement Act, makes technical corrections to the 2006 Combat Methamphetamine Act. The corrections come at the recommendation of the Drug Enforcement Agency. Mr. Gordon is the sponsor of this legislation.
- H.R. 3199, the Emergency Medic Transition Act, authorizes a new program designed to help returning veterans become emergency medical technicians. Representatives Harman, Sarbanes, and Buyer have led this effort.
- H.R. 3470, the Nationally Enhancing the Wellbeing of Babies Through Research Now – or NEWBORN Act, establishes a program of infant mortality pilot projects. This bill is authored by Congressman Cohen. Mr. Pallone will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute which places this program within the current authority of the Health and Human Services Healthy Start program.
- H.R. 5710, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act of 2010 – or NASPER, makes improvements to the NASPER program and reauthorizes it for three years. Congressmen Whitfield, Pallone, and Stupak are the lead sponsors of this bill.

- H.R. 5756, the Training and Research for Autism Improvements Nationwide Act of 2010 – or TRAIN Act, authorizes programs to support interdisciplinary training, continuing education and technical assistance for children and adults on the autism spectrum, and their families. Mr. Doyle has introduced H.R. 5756 and will offer an amendment that makes several technical corrections to the bill.
- H.R. 5809, the Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2010, addresses a long-standing problem with so-called drug take-back programs which are designed to allow people to safely and securely dispose of their unused or unwanted medicines outside of the home. This bill is the joint product of Mr. Inslee and Mr. Stupak as well as Congressmen Smith and Moran. Mr. Stupak will offer a technical amendment to the bill.

I would like to thank Mr. Barton and Mr. Shimkus, along with their staff, for working with us to move these important bills toward becoming law. Majority and minority staff worked together, along with each bill's sponsors, to reach agreement on each bill, the amendments made in subcommittee, and those amendments that will be offered today.

I look forward to continuing to work together in this spirit on health issues and across the committee's jurisdiction.