



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

DEMOCRATS

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**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “Examining Legislation to Improve Health Care and Treatment”**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing. This morning we will be discussing a wide variety of bills touching everything from public health to medical malpractice. I’m looking forward to having an informative conversation about the six pieces of legislation in front of us today.

The first bill, H.R. 921, the “Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act of 2015,” as introduced by Representatives Guthrie, Richmond and Womack would clarify specific aspects of medical licensure and liability for sports-related healthcare providers. In short, it stipulates that if a team doctor or athletic trainer crosses state lines for a game, any care provided at the out-of-state event will be treated as if it were a “home game” for the purpose of medical licensure and liability.

H.R. 4152, “the Cardiac Survival Act of 2015” as introduced by Rep. Olson and Connolly would expand civil liability protections related to the usage of automated external defibrillator devices or AEDs. This bill would offer broad protections for both the owners of AEDs and any lay person that may use it. While I strongly support the intended goal of this bill, I do have some concerns surrounding state law preemption, especially as it may relate to various state AED training laws.

H.R. 3441, the “Accurate Education for Prenatal Screenings Act” as introduced by Representatives Herrera Beutler and Roybal-Allard would, among other things, direct CDC to develop patient and provider education programs and materials to inform them about the use of cell-free DNA prenatal screening tests for genetic conditions such as Down syndrome. These screenings are intended to provide patients with genetic information regarding their pregnancy, however, these screenings are not regulated by FDA and have a history of false positives and false negatives. Further these tests are often misunderstood by both patients and providers. More

must be done to ensure that the information provided about these tests is accurate and truthful to ensure that patients and providers can better understand these screenings and their limitations, and I look forward to learning more about how Congress can help assist in this effort.

H.R. 1209, the “Improving Access to Maternity Care Act” as introduced by Representatives Burgess, Capps and Duckworth would make changes to the National Health Service Corps’ definition of a “Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area” by creating a subcategory specifically for Maternity care Providers. This should allow the National Health Service Corps to better target maternity care providers towards the areas with the most need.

H.R. 2713, the “Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act” as introduced by Representatives Capps and Joyce would reauthorize the Title VIII nursing workforce programs, which provide valuable training to our nation’s nursing workforce, through 2020. It also provides technical updates that more accurately reflect the current state of the nursing profession. This is a vital program with decades of bipartisan support, and I hope to continue that tradition today.

H.R. 4153, the “Educating to Prevent Eating Disorders Act of 2015” as introduced by Representatives Ellmers, Clarke and Castor creates a pilot program to test new approaches to early interventions for eating disorders. This bipartisan bill is an important step in addressing a serious issue that hasn’t received nearly as much attention as it deserves.

I look forward to hearing the testimony of all our esteemed witnesses today and the opportunity to learn more about each of these bills. Thank you, and I’d like to yield the remainder of my time to Ms. Capps.

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