

Opening Statement
Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Full Committee Markup of H.R. 985, H.R. 3154, H.R. 1344, H.R.
1462, H.R. 1725, and H.R. 2820
July 29, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this markup of legislation relating to infant health, prescription drugs, and important stem cell transplant programs. Every bill before us today has strong bipartisan support, and it's good to see the Committee moving these bipartisan proposals forward before the August break. I'd like to briefly highlight two of the bills before us today that I'm especially pleased the Committee is taking up.

H.R. 1725, the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Reauthorization Act, reauthorizes the NASPER program, which assists states in combating prescription drug abuse. Drug overdose death rates have risen steadily in the United States since 1970 and data from the last decade shows that prescription drug abuse is an epidemic in the United States. According to NASPER, since 2007 overall prescription drug abuse has increased 149 percent, with increases ranging from 222 percent for morphine to 1293 percent for methadone. This legislation will encourage states to adopt prescription monitoring programs which collect state-wide data about prescription drugs and track their flow. Although the success of these monitoring programs is evident, it remains obvious there is much more work to be done and I welcome the Committee's commitment to combatting this epidemic.

H.R. 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015, reauthorizes two important programs responsible for saving the lives of thousands of patients who have been diagnosed with life-threatening blood cancers, like leukemia and lymphoma. For these patients, a bone marrow or cord blood transplant may be their only hope for a cure. Over the past 30 years, the National

Cord Blood Inventory and the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation programs have matched patients with over 11 million potential donors and 193,000 cord blood units donated by mothers. In addition, through international coordination, the registries now include over 24.5 million international donors and 622,000 cord blood units worldwide.

The other four bills on the docket today are also deserving of this Committee's support. The concrete masonry bill had over 260 cosponsors last Congress, and the E-Warranty Act will bring our warranty laws into the 21st Century. I urge my colleagues to support all the bills before us today and carry this momentum through to September.