



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

DEMOCRATS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2015

CONTACT

Christine Brennan—(202) 225-5735

**Opening Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for
delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Full Committee Markup**

Thank you Chairman Upton for convening today's full committee markup on six bills that all successfully passed their relevant Subcommittee with unanimous Member support. As we look to a well-deserved district work period, let me commend you and your staff for their willingness to work with Democrats to ensure that all of the bills before us includes our views.

H.R. 985, would establish a Concrete Masonry Products Board that would require the collection of fees from manufacturers of concrete masonry products to fund programs and activities that would promote the concrete masonry industry.

The bill before us addresses many of the concerns we had heard about this bill and has my support. Now the bill ensures fairness within the concrete masonry industry and within the construction product industry overall. And includes provisions that increase the Concrete Masonry Board's accountability.

We will also consider the E-Warranty Act of 2015, introduced by Representatives Mullen and Loeb sack. This bipartisan bill will help modernize the rules regarding pre-sale warranty notice by allowing warranty information to be made available online.

While I support this bill, I encourage the FTC to require that the non-electronic means of obtaining warranty information provided for in this bill is available to consumers for free and in a timely manner. I also expect that FTC's rulemaking will maintain the current protections for consumers and small business owners without Internet access, including requiring that manufacturers ensure sellers can fulfill their pre-sale notice obligations.

We will also consider a number of important public health bills. The NASPER Reauthorization Act will help States establish and maintain prescription drug monitoring programs in order to combat prescription drug abuse, a public health crisis affecting so many communities across the country. This is an important step in our efforts and I look forward to

working with Reps. Whitfield, Kennedy and Buschon to find ways to ensure it receives critical funding.

H.R. 1462, the Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, also addresses the opioid epidemic. Unfortunately, there has been a steep increase in the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome or NAS, a negative health outcome that occurs in newborns who were exposed to painkillers while in their mother's womb. This important bill – introduced by Rep. Katherine Clark – would require HHS to develop recommendations for the treatment and prevention of prenatal opiate abuse and NAS. It would also require collection of data to better monitor the problem, and the development of a coordinated research strategy at HHS.

H.R. 2820, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act, introduced by Rep. Matsui, continues our highly successful 'Be the Match Registry' to ensure continued federal support to help patients in need of bone marrow transplants find a match. This program is truly life-saving.

Finally, H.R. 1344, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2015, would reauthorize the successful Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program. The program ensures that 97 percent of newborns receive screening for hearing loss. As a result, children gain early access to interventions and treatments that are critical in minimizing a hearing-impaired child's risk of developmental delays. Thank you to Rep. Capps for her leadership on this important public health issue.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for working to move these bills forward.

###