

# House Completes Passing Opioid Legislation

On June 22, the House of Representatives concluded [two weeks of voting on opioid legislation](#) by approving a package that combines dozens of individual opioid-related bills that the House had approved over the past two weeks.



H.R. 6

## Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act

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### CONTROVERSIAL PROVISIONS

#### Individuals in Medicaid Deserve Care that is Appropriate and Responsible in its Execution Act

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Mimi Walters (R-CA) and was approved 261-155. It would scale back a federal prohibition on Medicaid reimbursements for substance abuse treatment provided at so-called institutions for mental disease. The bill would allow Medicaid to pay for the treatment of opioid use disorder in such facilities for stays of up to 30 days. To address criticism that the legislation was treating opioid addiction differently than other substance abuse, Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL) offered an amendment to roll back the IMD exclusion for treatment of cocaine use as well as opioid use. The exclusion would remain in place for all other substance use disorders.



#### Overdose Prevention and Patient Safety Act

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) and was approved 357-57. This legislation would ease confidentiality rules for medical records that contain information about a patient's history of substance abuse treatment. This legislation is controversial but was supported by the American Hospital Association because they believe the measure would help to improve care for people with substance use disorders.

### ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS



A measure to expand the authority of non-physicians to prescribe buprenorphine, which is commonly used to treat opioid use disorder through medication-assisted treatment.

Various measures to prevent over-prescribing of opioids through provisions like e-prescribing and the identification of outlier prescribers.



Measures to educate Medicare beneficiaries about pain medication and screen them for opioid use disorder.

Measures to enhance Medicaid coverage for foster care youth and former prisoners.



Several measures to expand telehealth services.



Several measures to encourage non-addictive or non-opioid pain and addiction therapies, including one that would require FDA to issue guidance clarifying how such therapies can be eligible for expedited approval pathways.



The legislation now goes to the Senate, where the Health Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, the Finance Committee and the Judiciary Committee have been working on their opioid legislation. The Senate is expected to act on their package over the summer.

For more information on this legislation and other healthcare news, read our [Washington Healthcare Update](#).