

House Passes Opioid Bills

The House began its two-week vote-a-thon on opioid legislation. On June 12, 2018 the house passed 25 bills and continued to work on opioid legislation throughout the week. On June 12 all but two of the bills were decided by voice vote, and the debate period for the bills rarely exceeded 10 minutes. Many of the bills dealt with enforcement actions to be taken by Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), while others were centered on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and its coverage of various opioid-related treatments. Stay tuned for more updates as Congress passes additional legislation around opioids.

ENFORCEMENT



Stop Counterfeit Drugs by Regulating and Enhancing Enforcement Now (SCREEN) Act of 2018

Sets up a \$110 million account to support FDA in its surveillance and screening of imported drugs, including ramping up staff at international mail facilities (IMFs); increase the maximum dollar amount of drugs subject to destruction; and amend drug law so that any drug or device liable to seizure is not governed by maritime rules.

BEST PRACTICES



Better Pain Management Through Better Data Act of 2018

Requires FDA to establish criteria for collecting information about opioid sparing to be included on drug labels.

Jessie's Law

Mandates HHS establish best practices for including information about a patient's history of opioid use disorder in medical records. The bill includes an amendment clarifying certain Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules.

Ensuring Access to Quality Sober Living Act of 2018

Authorizes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop and distribute best practices for operating recovery housing.

Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms (POWER) Act

Provides resources for hospitals to develop protocols on discharging patients who have presented with an opioid overdose.



Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act

Amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow hospice employees to help dispose of controlled substances in the homes of deceased hospice patients.

RESEARCH

Abuse Deterrent Access Act of 2018

Requires the HHS secretary to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the "adequacy of access to abuse-deterrent opioid formulations" for Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D beneficiaries. As part of the study, HHS must take into account barriers that prevent individuals from accessing ADFs, including cost-sharing tiers, fail-first requirements, the price of formulations and prior authorization requirements.

ACE Research Act

Provides NIH with new authorities to conduct innovative research on new non-addictive pain medications.

Medicaid IMD Additional Info Act

Directs the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission to conduct a study on institutions for mental diseases (IMD) that receive Medicaid reimbursement.



REPORTS



Synthetic Drug Awareness Act of 2018

Requires the U.S. surgeon general to submit to Congress a report on the effects on public health of the increased use rate of synthetic drugs among youth aged 12 to 18.

H.R. 5583

Requires state Medicaid programs to annually report on certain adult behavioral health quality measures.

TECHNOLOGY

H.R. 3331

Amends Title XI of the Social Security Act to promote testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology.

Indexing Narcotics, Fentanyl and Opioids (INFO) Act of 2017

Directs HHS to create a public electronic dashboard linking to all nationwide efforts and strategies to combat the opioid crisis.

Special Registration for Telemedicine Clarification Act of 2018

Clarifies telemedicine waivers so that patients can more easily be prescribed controlled substances in legitimate emergency situations.



FUNDING

Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018

Creates a student loan repayment program for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment providers.

H.R. 5812

Improves current federal support for state-run prescription drug monitoring programs.

Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act of 2018

Amends Title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to create comprehensive opioid recovery centers.



PROGRAMS & EDUCATION



TEACH to Combat Addiction Act of 2018

Supports learning institutions that have promoted SUD treatment education for health professionals.

Poison Center Network Enhancement Act of 2018

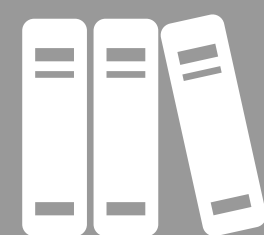
Reauthorizes the national network of poison control centers.

H.R. 5272

Ensures programs funded by an HHS grant, cooperative agreement, loan or loan guarantee to prevent or treat a mental health or substance use disorder are evidence based.

Eliminating Opioid Related Infectious Diseases Act of 2018

Authorizes CDC to start an injection drug use-related infection elimination initiative and work with states to improve education, surveillance and treatment of those infections, such as HIV and hepatitis.



Medicare Opioid Safety Education Act of 2018

Directs CMS to compile education resources for beneficiaries on opioid use, pain management and alternative management treatments and include those resources in the "Medicare and You" handbook.

Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act

Helps pharmacists detect and decline fraudulent prescriptions.

Alternative to Opioids (ALTO) Act

Establishes a demonstration program to test alternative pain management protocols.

Peer Support Communities of Recovery Act

Enhances the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act's (CARA's) Building Communities of Recovery Program and authorizes HHS to award grants for peer support organizations for developing and expanding recovery services.

