

March 9, 2023

House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health Advances Five Bills Addressing Health Care, Controlled Substances, and Suicide Prevention

On Wednesday (March 8), the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health advanced five bills on health care, the new suicide prevention lifeline, and controlled substances. The bills now go to the full House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Three of the bills advanced aim to address the fentanyl crisis by adding new requirements for drug manufacturers, distributors and the Drug Enforcement Agency regarding suspicious orders of controlled substances; classifying fentanyl-related substances as a schedule I drug; and amending the Public Health Services Act to expand Title 42 to allow the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary to suspend persons or imports related to certain controlled substances from certain countries. The subcommittee also advanced a bill to ban the use of quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) from being used in determining coverage, reimbursement, or incentive program thresholds for all federal health care programs, as well as a bill to protect the 988 suicide hotline from cyber threats.

- For more information: <https://energycommerce.house.gov/events/a-health-subcommittee-markup-of-five-bills>

Mark-up details

H.R. 485, Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023

- *High-level summary:* The bill would permanently ban all federal health care programs from using prices based on quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) from being used in determining coverage, reimbursement, or incentive program thresholds.
- *Outcome:* Approved, as amended, by voice vote. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) offered a substitute amendment with language changes.

H.R. 467, HALT Fentanyl Act

- *High-level summary:* The bill would classify fentanyl-related substances as schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act and establish a new registration process for schedule I research funded by HHS or the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- *Outcome:* Approved, as amended, in a 17-10 vote. Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) offered an amendment to clarify language related to fentanyl-related substances.

H.R. 498, 9-8-8 Lifeline Cybersecurity Responsibility Act

- *High-level summary:* The bill requires the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to take certain actions to protect the 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline from cybersecurity threats.

- *Outcome:* Unanimously approved, as amended, in a 27-0 vote. Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA) offered a substitute amendment with language changes.

H.R. 501, Block, Report, And Suspend Suspicious Shipments Act

- *High-level summary:* The bill establishes new requirements for drug manufacturers and distributors who discover a suspicious order for controlled substances.
- *Outcome:* Unanimously approved in a 28-0 vote.

H.R. 801, Securing the Border for Public Health Act of 2023

- *High-level summary:* The bill would use Title 42 Public Health Authorities to combat the importation of certain controlled substances including narcotics, opiates, opium derivatives, and fentanyl-related substances.
- *Outcome:* Approved in a 17-12 vote.

If you have questions, please contact [Heather Meade](#) or [Heather Bell](#).

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