

demonstration should be expanded to additional States. If the chief actuary of CMS certifies that this extension would not increase net Medicaid spending, then the demonstration may continue not beyond 2019.

While I have strong concerns with the President's healthcare law, S. 599 would let States and CMS continue to test the provision of critical mental health services for patients in a manner that is responsible for the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. Brooks), a prime sponsor of the House companion bill and a member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Pitts) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 599, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING OUR INFANTS ACT OF 2015

(November 16, 2015)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 799) to address problems related to prenatal opioid use.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Pitts) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gene Green) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the Record on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today begins to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Over the past several years, opioid addiction has risen dramatically in the United States, reaching epidemic proportions. The death rate for heroin overdose doubled in just 2 years from 2010 to 2012.

One of the issues resulting from this epidemic is neonatal abstinence syndrome, known as NAS. Babies born with NAS are infants that are addicted to opioids and that suffer medical issues associated with drug withdrawal. Symptoms can last for weeks, keeping otherwise healthy infants confined to the hospital at the start of their lives.

NAS can result from the use of prescription drugs or from the use of illegal opioids. Sadly, over the past 15 years, the incidence of NAS has tripled in the United States. This is a rapidly growing problem that needs to be addressed for the safety of our mothers and children.

S. 799, Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, introduced in the Senate by Majority Leader McConnell and led in the House by my colleagues, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts and Mr. Stivers, would address the increasing problem of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Preventing opioid abuse among pregnant women and women of childbearing age is crucial in addressing NAS. The Government Accountability Office has identified that more research is needed in this area to help treat babies born with NAS and mothers addicted to opioids.

This legislation would help fill this research gap by directing the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AHRQ, to conduct a study and develop recommendations for preventing and treating prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, the House companion to S. 799 was approved by a voice vote in the Subcommittee on Health and the full Committee on Energy and Commerce. Today we have a chance to approve this important bipartisan and bicameral legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this important bipartisan, bicameral legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Pitts) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 799.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY (December 10, 2015)

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Human Rights Day.

Sixty-seven years ago today, December 10, 1948, the U.N. General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration set out a common understanding of the fundamental human rights that were to be universally protected.

Today, we recall the inalienable rights intrinsic to every human being. In many regions of the world, people continue to struggle to attain the most basic rights and respect for their basic