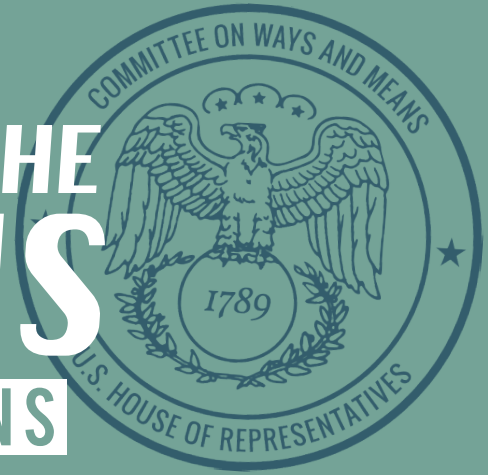


COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS



OPIOID LEGISLATION

TALKING POINTS

Why we are introducing these bills:

- **The opioid crisis affects every community.** We all have experienced firsthand just how devastating these drugs can be for our neighbors and loved ones.
- **Working on a bipartisan basis, we are taking a major step to address this crisis.** This is not a partisan issue: ensuring our communities and families are able to overcome this crisis is a shared priority.
- **We know that to ultimately solve the opioid crisis, it is going to take years of working together.** But we are moving in the right direction and are committed to continue working together for as long as it takes.

What these bills do:

- **The Committee's bipartisan bills take steps to reduce unnecessary prescribing of opioids, strengthen education, and increase access to treatment for those suffering from addiction.**
- This is achieved by focusing on four main areas:
 - **Quality and Integrity** Sponsored by Chairman Peter Roskam (R-IL) and Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)
 - Our legislation improves program integrity requirements surrounding prescribing and health plan communication, expanding services to assist patients that have been prescribed opioids.
 - **Patient Education and Prevention** Sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN), Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI)
 - We are improving efforts to educate patients and insurers on the negative effects of opioids as the first line of care and on proper disposal methods of controlled substances by directing CMS to revise pain-related quality measures for hospitals.
 - **Prescriber Education and Prevention** Sponsored by Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA)
 - These bills explore the education and possibilities for non-opioid treatments, improving guidelines for Medicare provisions on the use of opioids for pain treatment.
 - **Treatment and Innovation** Sponsored by Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA), Rep. George Holding (R-NC)
 - We are expanding access for patients to different treatments and providers when facing opioid addiction or other diagnoses that could lead to opioid addiction, exploring alternative methods of care to be used in the place of opioids in certain settings.