

EXPANDING FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL OPIOID RESEARCH
AND TREATMENT ACT

JUNE 27, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, from the Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3153]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3153) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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I. PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 3153 is to direct the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support research related to opioid addiction.

II. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

The opioid epidemic is a significant and ongoing problem for communities throughout the country with significant social, medical, and economic impacts. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of prescription opioid involved deaths has been increasing since 1999.¹ In 2017, more than 47,000 Americans died from an opioid overdose and approximately 1.7 million Americans had a substance abuse disorder related to prescription opioids.² This is an issue that affects every state in the country; between 2016 and 2017, 23 states had statistically significant increases in drug overdose rates.³

The opioid epidemic affects not only those addicted to opioids but their family members and communities as well. Babies born into addiction suffer from neonatal abstinence syndrome, or neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome. There were five times as many babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome in 2014 than in 2004.⁴ Research indicates that the misuse of prescription opioids alone costs 78.5 billion dollars per year.⁵ These costs include medical costs, productivity losses, and criminal justice costs.⁶

Ongoing research on opioid addiction conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) has focused on areas such as the role of illicit supply networks; the neuroscience of addiction; options for alternative, non-addictive therapies for pain; and the secondary effects of opioid addiction on families and communities. However, research gaps remain in a number of areas. Additionally, both the NSF and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have recognized that research into opioid addiction would benefit from a multidisciplinary approach and collaboration. H.R. 3153 would take advantage of NSF's strengths in neuroscience and social and behavioral sciences in particular to address some of the basic research gaps in opioid addiction, including through partnership with NIH.

III. COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The Committee has held no hearings on this legislation.

IV. COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AND VOTES

As noted in Section IV of this report, the Committee has held no hearings on this legislation.

On June 6, 2019, Representative Jennifer Wexton, for herself and Representatives Baird of Indiana, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania,

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. December 19, 2018. "Understanding the Epidemic." <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>.

²National Institute on Drug Abuse. January 2019. "Opioid Overdose Crisis." <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>.

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. December 19, 2018. "Drug Overdose Deaths." <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>.

⁴National Institute on Drug Abuse. January 2019. "Dramatic Increases in Maternal Opioid Use and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome." <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/dramatic-increases-in-maternal-opioid-use-neonatal-abstinence-syndrome>.

⁵National Institute on Drug Abuse. January 2019. "Opioid Overdose Crisis." <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>.

⁶Ibid

Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Mr. Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Kilmer of Washington introduced H.R. 3153, the *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act* or the *EFFORT Act*, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes.

On June 20, 2019, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology met to consider H.R. 3153 and three other bills. There were no amendments offered to H.R. 3153.

Ms. Johnson moved that the Committee favorably report the bill, H.R. 3153, to the House with the recommendation that the bill be approved. The motion was agreed to by a voice vote.

V. SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

H.R. 3153 directs the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the science of opioid addiction.

VI. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS (BY TITLE AND SECTION)

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS

“Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act or EFFORT Act”

This section also provides findings for the bill.

SECTION 2. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON OPIOID ADDICTION

This section directs NSF to support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the science of opioid addiction.

VII. COMMITTEE VIEWS

Research conducted by NSF has significantly increased our understanding of the science of addiction, but gaps remain in areas of research that will enhance our ability to address the opioid epidemic. The Committee believes increased research into opioid addiction is an important tool to develop evidence-based policies to address the opioid epidemic. While NSF is not the only agency to fund research into opioid addiction, the Committee believes NSF is the appropriate agency to address and fund some of the basic research into the science of opioid addiction. The Committee encourages NSF to collaborate with NIH and other agencies when appropriate, and otherwise take steps to disseminate the results of NSF funded research to agencies and other end-users who can help translate the science into practice.

VIII. COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of new budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2019.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 3153, the EF-FORT Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Janani Shankaran.

Sincerely,

MARK P. HADLEY
(For Phillip L. Swagel).

Enclosure.

H.R. 3153, EFFORT Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on June 20, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 3153 would direct the National Science Foundation (NSF), in consultation with the National Institutes of Health, to support research on the science of opioid addiction. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3153 would have no effect on the federal budget because the NSF already awards grants to institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations to study opioid addiction. In recent years, the agency has awarded several million dollars such research.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

X. FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

H.R. 3153 contains no unfunded mandates.

XI. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

XII. STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of H.R. 3153 is to support research on opioid addiction consistent with NSF's current statutory mission to help strengthen the nation's response to the opioid epidemic. This bill has no reporting requirements.

XIII. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

H.R. 3153 does not create any advisory committees.

XIV. DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H.R. 3153 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

XV. EARMARK IDENTIFICATION

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 3153 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

XVI. APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that H.R. 3153 does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104-1).

XVII. STATEMENT ON PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

XVIII. PROCEEDINGS OF THE FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

**MARKUPS: H.R. 2528, STEM
Opportunities Act of 2019;
H.R. 36, Combating Sexual Harassment
in Science Act of 2019;
H.R. 3196, Vera Rubin Survey Telescope
Designation Act; and
H.R. 3153, Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid
Research and Treatment Act**

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

—————
JUNE 20, 2019
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Serial No. CP 116–4
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Printed for the use of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://science.house.gov>

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 2019

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JUNE 20, 2019

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H.R. 3153, Expanding Findings for Federal
Opioid Research and Treatment Act**

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m., in room 2318, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson [Chairwoman of the Committee] presiding.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Good morning. The Committee will come to order. And without objection, the Chair is authorizes to declare recess at any time. Pursuant to Committee rule 2(e) and House rule XI, the Chair announces that she may postpone roll call votes.

Pursuant to notice, the Committee meets to consider the following measures: H.R. 2528, *STEM Opportunities Act of 2019*; H.R. 36, *Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019*; H.R. 3196, *Vera Rubin Survey Telescope Designation Act*; and H.R. 3153, *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act*.

I want to welcome everyone to today's markup. Today, we meet to mark up four good bipartisan bills. First, we will consider the *STEM Opportunities Act*, which has been a priority of mine of course for many years. This bill will help us address the disparity in the number of women and minorities in the STEM fields.

Without including all of our Nation's brain power in the fight for 21st-century competitiveness, it is unlikely that our country will remain the world leader in science and innovation. It is therefore my hope that this bill will play a major role in ensuring our country's competitiveness in the coming years.

It is not enough to simply attract women to the STEM fields. We must also ensure they stay in these fields, and the second bill in our markup addresses one of the reasons women leave the STEM sciences in such high rates: Sexual harassment. The problem of sexual harassment in the STEM fields has not been addressed in a comprehensive fashion. I hope that the *Combating Sexual Har-*

Assessment in Science Act of 2019 can play an important role in focusing Federal efforts to stamp out sexual harassment in the sciences.

I want to take a moment to recognize my colleague Ranking Member Lucas, who is an original co-sponsor of both of these bills. Both he and his staff have provided very constructive input into these bills and the hearings we held on these topics. I think the bills before us today are better off because of these efforts, and I want to sincerely thank him and his staff for their work.

The third bill before us today is the *Vera Rubin Survey Telescope Designation Act*. I'll speak more about this bill in a minute, but I think it is appropriate that on the same day our Committee tries to address the issues facing women in the STEM fields, we also take a moment to recognize a woman who overcame the hurdles she faced to provide significant contributions to the field of astronomy.

Finally, we will consider the *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act*, which is offered by Ms. Wexton. The scourge of opioid addiction is one of the most serious problems facing our Nation right now. It only makes sense to bring all of our resources to bear on this issue, and I think the National Science Foundation (NSF) can bring unique capabilities to the fight to better understand and deal with this critical issue.

I look forward to a productive markup and moving these bills very quickly to the House floor.

[The prepared statement of Chairwoman Johnson follows:]

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The problem of sexual harassment in the STEM fields has not been addressed in a comprehensive fashion. I hope that the *Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019* can play an important role in focusing federal efforts to stamp out sexual harassment in the sciences.

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I look forward to a productive markup and moving these bills very quickly to the House floor.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. I now recognize the Ranking Member to present an opening statement.

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Chairwoman Johnson, for holding this markup.

Today, we'll consider four bipartisan bills. The first is H.R. 2528, *STEM Opportunities Act of 2019*. H.R. 2528 continues this Committee's long bipartisan history of supporting and expanding STEM education for all. The only way we'll achieve our potential is by utilizing America's most valuable resource: Our people. That means developing a diverse STEM-capable workforce at every education level and from every background.

One of the key provisions of H.R. 2528 is a requirement for more comprehensive data collection and analysis on the students, researchers, and faculty receiving Federal science grants. This data will help us identify and reduce the barriers that prevent underrepresented groups from entering and advancing in STEM. It will also help us measure the success of Federal STEM programs.

The bill also includes a provision directing NSF to support computer science education through the existing Tribal Colleges and Universities program. Access to computer science resources and the development of computing skills is critical in today's economy. I am pleased to join Chairwoman Johnson in cosponsoring this legislation. I want to thank her and her entire staff for working with us to refine the bill for reintroduction and incorporating our feedback and ideas. I look forward to continuing to work with the Chairwoman and Members of the Committee to advance more STEM education efforts for this Congress to support, encourage, and develop the next generation of STEM students.

Our second bill this morning is H.R. 36, *Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019*. Chairwoman Johnson and I made this one of our highest priorities, introducing it on the first day of the 116th Congress. This bill has a foundation of more than a year of investigation, analysis, and recommendations to the Science Committee. Engaging more women in STEM studies and careers is essential to American competitiveness. Women make up half the workforce but account for less than 25 percent of America's STEM workforce.

Unfortunately, too many women have been driven out of STEM careers due to a culture of harassment and abuse. H.R. 36 takes the first steps to addressing this problem. The bill supports the adoption of uniform guidance across the Federal science agencies to reduce the prevalence of sexual harassment involving grant personnel. The bill also directs the NSF to conduct further research into the causes and consequences of harassment, as well as interventions to mitigate the problem.

There is an established legal process in place within higher education and in the workplace for handling claims of sexual harassment. This bill does not alter that process. What this bill does do is create a uniform policy for universities and research institutions to report to Federal science agencies when an administrative action is taken that impacts the ability of a researcher to carry out a grant. We want to ensure the safety of all grant personnel supported by taxpayer funding. I'll be offering an amendment later in the markup that we hope makes this requirement even more clear.

Again, thank you, Chairwoman Johnson, for working in a bipartisan and collaborative way to move this legislation forward.

Next, we will consider H.R. 3196, *Vera Rubin Survey Telescope Designation Act*, sponsored by Chairwoman Johnson and Representative Jennifer González-Colón. This bill honors the contributions of the late Dr. Vera Rubin, an astronomer who made groundbreaking discoveries in the field of dark matter and was a pioneer and life-long advocate for women in astronomy.

This new LSST (Large Synoptic Survey Telescope), under construction in Chile, funded by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy, will photograph the entire sky every few nights. One of the goals of the project is to study the nature of dark matter and dark energy. Naming the observatory in her honor is a fitting tribute to the contributions to the field, and I—her contributions to the field, I should note, and I hope will inspire future generations of women in astronomy.

Finally, the Committee will consider H.R. 3153, *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act*. This legislation identifies current gaps that exist in research on the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction and authorizes the NSF to support research grants in those areas.

I want to thank Representative Jennifer Wexton and Representative Jim Baird for their bipartisan work on this bill. Opioid addiction affects too many in our communities, and I applaud this effort to support more basic research on the science of addiction.

Once again, thank you, Chairwoman Johnson, for holding today's markup, and I encourage the Members of the Committee to support all these bills.

I yield back the balance of my time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lucas follows:]

Thank you, Chairwoman Johnson, for holding this mark-up. Today we will consider four bipartisan bills.

The first is H.R. 2528, *STEM Opportunities Act of 2019*. H.R. 2528 continues this Committee's long bipartisan history of supporting and expanding STEM education for all.

The only way we'll achieve our potential is by utilizing America's most valuable resource: our people. That means developing a diverse STEM-capable workforce at every education level and from every background.

One of the key provisions of H.R. 2528 is a requirement for more comprehensive data collection and analysis on the students, researchers, and faculty receiving federal science grants. This data will help us identify and reduce the barriers that prevent underrepresented groups from entering and advancing in STEM. It will also help us measure the success of federal STEM programs.

The bill also includes a provision directing NSF to support computer science education through the existing Tribal Colleges and Universities program. Access to computer science resources and the development of computing skills is critical in today's economy.

I was pleased to join Chairwoman Johnson in co-sponsoring this legislation. I want to thank her and her staff for working with us to refine the bill for reintroduction and incorporating our feedback and ideas.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Chairwoman and members of the Committee to advance more STEM education efforts this Congress to support, encourage and develop the next generation of STEM students.

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Finally, the Committee will consider H.R. 3153, *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act*. The legislation identifies current gaps that exist in research on the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction and authorizes NSF to support research grants in these areas.

I thank Rep. Jennifer Wexton and Rep. Jim Baird for their bipartisan work on this bill. Opioid addiction affects too many in our communities, and I applaud this effort to support more basic research on the science of addiction.

Once again, thank you Chairwoman Johnson for holding today's mark-up, and I encourage the Members of this Committee to support these bills. I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Lucas.

H.R. 2528

10:13 a.m.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. We will now consider H.R. 2528, *STEM Opportunities Act of 2019*. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 2528, a bill to direct the Director—
[The bill follows:]

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3153

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2019

Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. KILMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and
6 Treatment Act” or the “EFFORT Act”.

7 (b) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

8 (1) research gaps currently exist in the preven-
9 tion and treatment of opioid addiction;

1 (2) the National Science Foundation's research
2 on opioid addiction has increased understanding of
3 the neuroscience of addiction, substance abuse inter-
4 vention, the role of illicit supply networks, the sec-
5 ondary effects on families, the use of technology to
6 address the opioid epidemic, and options for alter-
7 native, non-addictive therapeutics for pain; and

8 (3) the National Science Foundation and the
9 National Institutes of Health have recognized that
10 fundamental questions in basic, clinical, and
11 translational research would benefit greatly from
12 multidisciplinary approaches and collaboration.

13 **SEC. 2. NSF SUPPORT OF RESEARCH ON OPIOID ADDIC-**
14 **TION.**

15 The Director of the National Science Foundation, in
16 consultation with the Director of the National Institutes
17 of Health, shall support merit-reviewed and competitively
18 awarded research on the science of opioid addiction.

○

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Without objection, the bill is considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

And I recognize Ms. Wexton, the bill's sponsor, to make any comments on the bill.

Ms. WEXTON. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I am so pleased to be a part of the bipartisan work that takes place in this Committee, and I thank many of my colleagues across the aisle for supporting this important legislation.

The opioid epidemic has taken a heartbreaking toll on families across America, including many in my State of Virginia. Tens of thousands of Americans and over 1,000 Virginians are dying every year from overdoses. Since 2014, overdose fatalities have surpassed deaths of motor vehicle crashes and firearms as the top cause of unnatural deaths in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and it has only gone up since that time.

Addiction is an illness, and fighting this crisis effectively requires adequate research and funding. The National Science Foundation has done an exceptional job in establishing some of the foundational understanding for the translational and clinical research on opioid addiction, including research regarding the neuroscience of addiction, opioid abuse intervention, and the secondary effect on families and options for alternative therapies for pain.

While this research has significantly increased the Nation's understanding of opioid addiction, research gaps remain in a wide range of disciplines, including social and behavioral issues such as stigma, socioeconomic status, or accessibility to treatment.

The NSF has a unique strength in being able to help us close some of these gaps and in turn, help us to develop solutions. My legislation, the *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment*, or *EFFORT Act*, will work to do this by directing the NSF to support and conduct multidisciplinary research on opioid addiction. Both the NSF and NIH (National Institutes of Health) have recognized that research efforts would benefit greatly from this multidisciplinary approach. By expanding the NSF's research on opioid addiction both within its agency, as well as jointly with NIH when needed, we can effectively integrate clinical and basic research, obtain a broader understanding of opioid addiction and its impacts, equip health professionals with new tools to stop the cycle of addiction, and establish a more comprehensive effort against this crisis.

As one of the founding members of the bipartisan Freshmen Working Group on Addiction, I have worked to be a strong advocate for addiction prevention and recovery efforts, and I am pleased to have introduced this legislation with my fellow freshman colleague, Congressman Baird. It's important that we work to better capture the severity of opioid addiction and expand Federal research—expanding Federal research will help us to do just that. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you, Ms. Wexton.

Anyone else wants to be recognized?

Mr. Baird first and then Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. BAIRD. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and Ranking Member Lucas. We appreciate you having this markup on House Resolution 3153.

You know, the opioid crisis has tragically destroyed the lives of many Hoosiers. According to the most recent available data from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, in 2017, drug overdose deaths in Indiana increased by 22.5 percent from the previous year. Indiana's 200—or 2017 rate of overdose deaths at just over 29 people per 100,000 was significantly higher than the national average of just over 21 per 100,000.

This epidemic does not discriminate, and we must use evidence-based policy to ensure the health and well-being of current and future generations. The National Science Foundation's research has increased what we know about addiction, and while this research is at the top of its class, there are still gaps that remain in the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction.

That's why I join my colleague Congresswoman Wexton to introduce this *EFFORT Act*, directing the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the National Institutes of Health, to support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the science of opioid addiction. By expanding basic research, we can promote great collaboration and further understand how we better treat the multiple aspects of the opioid addiction. I hope we can see an end to this crisis soon, and I am proud that Congress is taking action to fight back. And I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill. And I yield back.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you very much.

Anyone else wishing to be recognized? Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman and Ranking Member, for holding this important markup. And I'm pleased to see this Committee again move bipartisan bills to the House floor.

I also want to thank my colleagues Congresswoman Wexton and Congressman Baird for their leadership to introduce legislation that prioritizes research on the prevention and treatment of opiate addiction. We cannot do enough to help those families suffering from the terrible consequences of this scourge.

The opioid epidemic has ravaged entire communities in my home State of Ohio. According to CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) data, five counties with the highest per capita of fentanyl-related overdose death—overdose deaths are in the State of Ohio. Additionally, the CDC estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in our country is \$78.5 billion a year.

That's why I'm pleased to support this legislation that will require the NSF and NIH to support merit-reviewed and competitively awarded research on the science of opioid addiction. Furthering research on improving prevention and treatment for addiction will help our communities confront this horrific epidemic in a more holistic way. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support the *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act* and provide much-needed research on opioid addiction impacting many of our communities. With that, thank you, and I yield back.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you very much.

Any further comments?

[The prepared statement of Ms. Sherrill follows:]

For my guest to the State of the Union this year, I brought Donna Andelora from Wayne, New Jersey. Donna lost her son Joey at the age of 22 to a heroin overdose, and after his death started the Lost Angels Bereavement Group to help local families cope with loved ones lost to drug overdoses or struggling with opioid addiction.

There are too many mothers like Donna in our country who face the scourge of addiction. Too many families like the Andeloras who have been ripped apart by over-prescription, ease of access to opioids, and the lack of resources to fight this epidemic.

New Jersey knows this pain all too well. In 2018, we lost more than 3,000 residents to overdose—that's an average of 8 people each day. That's more than the national average in a given year. Towns and counties in my district are working hard to address this issue. However, it is clear that the scope and scale of the addiction epidemic requires federal action.

The *Expanding Findings for Federal Opioid Research and Treatment Act* or *EF-FORT Act*, which I am proud to co-sponsor, identifies gaps that currently exist in the research on the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction and authorizes the National Science Foundation to support research grants in these areas. The addiction epidemic plaguing our country is a complicated and multifaceted problem that will require an equally complex solution. This research will help advance our understanding of how to effectively address and combat the opioid and addiction epidemic.

Hearing none, are there any amendments?

If not, then a reporting quorum being present, I move that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology report H.R. 3153 to the House with the recommendation that the bill be approved.

Those in favor of the motion will signify by saying aye.

Those opposed, no.

The ayes have it, and the bill is favorably reported.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table, and I ask unanimous consent that the staff be authorized to make any necessary technical and conforming changes to the bill.

Without objection, so ordered.

Members have 2 subsequent calendar days in which to submit supplementary, minority, or additional views on this measure.

Let me just say before we adjourn that I want to thank all of the staff on both sides of the aisle and all the Members for the great input that has brought us to marking up these bipartisan bills, and I hope that that participation will continue. Input is important from everyone, and I appreciate your participation. And I thank you for attending.

And that concludes our markup for today, and the Committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:53 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]