

Attorney General Sessions, that they are not going to defend a lawsuit that is being brought by Republican attorneys general in many States that would basically say that the Affordable Care Act does not have to protect people anymore from preexisting conditions.

When discussing the opioid crisis on the floor this week and next, I urge my colleagues to remember that protecting and expanding access to care is the most critical piece of the puzzle, and any efforts to roll back the Affordable Care Act, such as another Republican-led attempt to repeal the ACA or gut Medicaid, will hurt those people who need it most.

I am pleased to support this bill in this package and the other bills that we considered on suspension today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), our resident pharmacist, to speak on the legislation.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would also like to thank my colleague, Mr. GRIFFITH, for all his work on this very important legislation. I would also like to thank him for including language that requires a report on the impact of PDMPs on patient access to appropriate care. This is critical for epilepsy patients that can face barriers to accessing their Schedule V non-narcotic drugs necessary to control their seizures.

Several epilepsy medications are classified as Schedule V and, therefore, fall under monitoring requirements, despite the fact that they are non-opioid, non-narcotic, and there is no evidence to indicate that these medications are being abused by people with epilepsy. This has led to unnecessary delays in access to their prescribed therapy.

A handful of States have passed legislation that removes non-narcotic drugs from reporting requirements. As we work through legislation intended to combat the opioid crisis, we need to ensure that we do not limit access to legitimate care, especially to non-narcotic drugs.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), who is a co-author of this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the opioid epidemic is devastating communities within my district and across the country. In the last year alone, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, has lost 232 individuals in drug-related deaths; a staggering 26 percent increase from 2016.

As vice-chair of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, I am proud to rise today in strong support of H.R. 5812, the CONNECTIONS Act.

While my district is just one area in the Nation that is struggling to cope with the opioid crisis, I believe the

CONNECTIONS Act will provide officials on the ground the necessary training techniques and resources they need to turn the tide on this epidemic.

As a longtime proponent of States fully utilizing prescription drug monitoring programs to track controlled substance purchases, I am proud of the PDMP enhancements in this bipartisan bill.

Our Nation's drug epidemic is a complicated issue, Mr. Speaker, and our response must be multifaceted. This means a reduction in the unnecessary dispensing of prescriptions, which could be accomplished by tracking and reporting information that allows physicians, pharmacists, and other health professionals to make informed clinical decisions and to identify troubling trends.

I would like to thank my colleague from Virginia, Mr. GRIFFITH, for his leadership on this important piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of the CONNECTIONS Act.

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

In conclusion, I just want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their incredible tenacity, their hard work, bringing from their districts and from the people they represent these ideas to formulate solutions that we are now going to enact into law and move over to the Senate. We will pass them here and move them over to the Senate and eventually into law.

I would also point out that, starting in 2016, 2017, Republicans in this Congress passed CARA, and the 21st Century Cures Act, putting over \$1.2 billion into the efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. And then we doubled down, literally and figuratively, and even more than that, I think we have got \$4 billion in the latest spending bill directed specifically at opioids, and another couple of billion at mental health services. Both of these are big needs for our communities and for our citizens, both led by Republicans and the Trump administration in terms of this most latest investment in the fight on opioids.

And I know President Trump and the administration do a lot of work on their own through using their executive powers, their administrative powers to address the problems of the opioid epidemic through the various agencies of the Federal Government. Not only are they leading on that, but they are also partnering with our States and our local communities.

We have got to make sure the money that we appropriate gets all the way to the ground, gets into these community organizations that are on the front lines of helping people get into treatment, helping them get the services that they need.

□ 1815

It has record funding going in. It helps when we change these laws to modernize them so that people can get

access to the care they need and they deserve, and together, we are going to solve this problem.

It is a big step forward, 25 bills today. We will have more later in this week and another 25 or 30 next week. We know that this is an ongoing challenge for our country. It will be an ongoing effort for our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this particular piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5812.

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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 5327;

Suspending the rules and passing H.R. 5041; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID RECOVERY CENTERS ACT OF 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5327) to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to create comprehensive opioid recovery centers, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 13, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 258]

YEAS—383

Abraham	DeSaulnier	Kind
Adams	DesJarlais	King (IA)
Aderholt	Deutch	Kinzing
Aguilar	Diaz-Balart	Knight
Allen	Dingell	Krishnamoorthi
Amodei	Doggett	Kuster (NH)
Arrington	Donovan	Kustoff (TN)
Babin	Doyle, Michael	Labrador
Bacon	F.	LaHood
Banks (IN)	Duffy	LaMalfa
Barletta	Duncan (SC)	Lamb
Barr	Dunn	Lamborn
Barragán	Emmer	Lance
Barton	Engel	Langevin
Bass	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Bera	Españillat	Larson (CT)
Bergman	Esty (CT)	Latta
Beyer	Evans	Lawrence
Bishop (GA)	Faso	Lawson (FL)
Bishop (MI)	Ferguson	Lee
Bishop (UT)	Fitzpatrick	Lesko
Black	Fleischmann	Levin
Blum	Flores	Lewis (GA)
Blumenauer	Fortenberry	Lewis (MN)
Blunt Rochester	Foster	Lieu, Ted
Bonamici	Fox	Lipinski
Bost	Frankel (FL)	LoBiondo
Boyle, Brendan	Frelinghuysen	Loeb
F.	Fudge	Lofgren
Brady (TX)	Gabbard	Long
Brat	Gallagher	Loudermilk
Brooks (IN)	Gallego	Love
Brown (MD)	Garamendi	Lowenthal
Brownley (CA)	Gianforte	Lowey
Buchanan	Gibbs	Lucas
Bucshon	Gomez	Luetkemeyer
Budd	Gonzalez (TX)	Lujan Grisham,
Burgess	Goodlatte	M.
Bustos	Gottheimer	Luján, Ben Ray
Butterfield	Granger	Lynch
Byrne	Graves (GA)	MacArthur
Calvert	Graves (LA)	Maloney,
Capuano	Graves (MO)	Carolyn B.
Carbajal	Green, Gene	Maloney, Sean
Cárdenas	Griffith	Marino
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	Marshall
Carter (GA)	Grothman	Mast
Carter (TX)	Guthrie	Matsui
Cartwright	Gutiérrez	McCarthy
Castor (FL)	Hanabusa	McCaul
Castro (TX)	Handel	McCollum
Chabot	Harris	McEachin
Cheney	Hartzler	McGovern
Chu, Judy	Hastings	McHenry
Ciçilline	Heck	McKinley
Clark (MA)	Hensarling	McMorris
Clarke (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Rodgers
Clay	Higgins (LA)	McNerney
Cleaver	Higgins (NY)	McSally
Clyburn	Hill	Meadows
Coffman	Himes	Meeks
Cohen	Holding	Meng
Cole	Hollingsworth	Messer
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Mitchell
Collins (NY)	Huffman	Moolenaar
Comer	Huizenga	Mooney (WV)
Comstock	Hultgren	Moore
Conaway	Hunter	Moulton
Connolly	Hurd	Mullin
Cook	Issa	Nadler
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Napolitano
Correa	Jayapal	Neal
Costa	Jeffries	Newhouse
Courtney	Jenkins (KS)	Noem
Cramer	Johnson (GA)	Nolan
Crist	Johnson (LA)	Norcross
Crowley	Johnson (OH)	Norman
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Nunes
Culberson	Johnson, Sam	O'Halleran
Cummings	Jordan	O'Rourke
Curbelo (FL)	Joyce (OH)	Olson
Curtis	Kaptur	Palazzo
Davidson	Katko	Pallone
Davis (CA)	Keating	Palmer
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (IL)	Panetta
DeFazio	Kelly (MS)	Pascrell
DeGette	Kelly (PA)	Paulsen
Delaney	Kennedy	Payne
DelBene	Khanna	Pearce
Demings	Kihuen	Pelosi
Denham	Kildee	Perlmutter
DeSantis	Kilmer	Perry

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 259]

YEAS—398

Abraham	DelBene	Kaptur
Adams	Demings	Katko
Aderholt	Denham	Keating
Aguilar	DeSantis	Kelly (IL)
Allen	DeSaulnier	Kelly (MS)
Amash	DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)
Amodei	Deutch	Kennedy
Arrington	Diaz-Balart	Khanna
Babin	Dingell	Kihuen
Bacon	Doggett	Kildee
Banks (IN)	Donovan	Kilmer
Barletta	Doyle, Michael	Kind
Barr	F.	King (IA)
Barragán	Duffy	Kinzing
Barton	Duncan (SC)	Knight
Bass	Duncan (TN)	Krishnamoorthi
Bera	Dunn	Kuster (NH)
Bergman	Emmer	Kustoff (TN)
Beyer	Engel	Labrador
Biggs	Eshoo	LaHood
Bishop (GA)	Españillat	LaMalfa
Bishop (MI)	Esty (CT)	Lamb
Bishop (UT)	Evans	Lamborn
Black	Faso	Lance
Blum	Ferguson	Langevin
Blumenauer	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
Blunt Rochester	Fleischmann	Larson (CT)
Bonamici	Flores	Latta
Bost	Fortenberry	Lawrence
Boyle, Brendan	Foster	Lawson (FL)
F.	Fox	Lee
Brady (TX)	Frankel (FL)	Lesko
Brat	Frelinghuysen	Levin
Brooks (AL)	Fudge	Lewis (GA)
Brooks (IN)	Gabbard	Lewis (MN)
Brown (MD)	Gaetz	Lieu, Ted
Brownley (CA)	Gallagher	Lipinski
Buchanan	Gallego	LoBiondo
Buck	Garamendi	Loeb
Bucshon	Garrett	Lofgren
Budd	Gianforte	Long
Burgess	Gibbs	Loudermilk
Bustos	Gohmert	Love
Butterfield	Gomez	Lowenthal
Byrne	Gonzalez (TX)	Lowey
Calvert	Goodlatte	Lucas
Capuano	Gosar	Luetkemeyer
Carbajal	Gottheimer	Lujan Grisham,
Cárdenas	Granger	M.
Carson (IN)	Graves (GA)	Luján, Ben Ray
Carter (GA)	Graves (LA)	Lynch
Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	MacArthur
Cartwright	Green, Gene	Maloney,
Castor (FL)	Griffith	Carolyn B.
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	Maloney, Sean
Chabot	Grothman	Marino
Cheney	Guthrie	Marshall
Chu, Judy	Gutiérrez	Massie
Ciçilline	Hanabusa	Mast
Clark (MA)	Handel	Matsui
Clarke (NY)	Harris	McCarthy
Clay	Hartzler	McCaul
Cleaver	Hastings	McCollum
Clyburn	Heck	McEachin
Coffman	Hensarling	McGovern
Cohen	Herrera Beutler	McHenry
Cole	Hice, Jody B.	McKinley
Collins (GA)	Higgins (LA)	McMorris
Collins (NY)	Higgins (NY)	McMorris
Comer	Hill	Rodgers
Comstock	Himes	McNerney
Conaway	Holding	McSally
Connolly	Hollingsworth	Meadows
Cook	Hudson	Meeks
Cooper	Huffman	Meng
Correa	Huizenga	Messer
Costa	Hultgren	Mitchell
Courtney	Hunter	Moolenaar
Cramer	Hurd	Mooney (WV)
Crist	Issa	Moore
Crowley	Jackson Lee	Moulton
Cuellar	Jayapal	Mullin
Culberson	Jeffries	Nadler
Cummings	Jenkins (KS)	Napolitano
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Neal
Curtis	Johnson (LA)	Newhouse
Davidson	Johnson (OH)	Noem
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Nolan
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Norcross
DeFazio	Jones	Norman
DeGette	Jordan	Nunes
Delaney	Joyce (OH)	O'Halleran

NAYS—13

Amash	Gaetz	Massie
Biggs	Garrett	McClintock
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	Rohrabacher
Buck	Hice, Jody B.	
Duncan (TN)	Jones	

NOT VOTING—31

Beatty	Gowdy	Roskam
Bilirakis	Green, Al	Sanford
Blackburn	Harper	Sires
Brady (PA)	Hoyer	Swalwell (CA)
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (WV)	Taylor
Crawford	King (NY)	Titus
Davis, Danny	Marchant	Visclosky
DeLauro	Murphy (FL)	Walz
Ellison	Rooney, Francis	Wilson (FL)
Estes (KS)	Rooney, Thomas	Wilson (SC)
Gohmert	J.	

□ 1858

Mr. FASO changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAFE DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5041) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the employees of a hospice program to handle controlled substances in the residence of a deceased hospice patient to assist in disposal, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.