opioid crisis, clarifying and strengthening that role is critical to economic development in the region.

We are grateful that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has been able to step in in this area of economic development and job creation, but we must do more throughout the country, not just with opioids but with other drug issues and the related scourge in this country.

I applaud Ranking Member TITUS for taking the issue seriously and being an original cosponsor of this bill. This bill will address some of the impacts of drug abuse on economic development in the Appalachian region. I support this bill, and urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, all of us are painfully aware of the devastating toll taken by opioid addiction and abuse in every corner of this great country.

While this epidemic is truly national in its scope today, it actually began in the small communities in Appalachia over a decade ago. Our hills were flooded with painkillers, our hospitals flooded with patients, our churches flooded with helpless parents crying out for help. Our rural towns simply did not have the capacity to handle this monstrous problem.

Today, given the unique challenges confronting Appalachia, the opioid-related overdose rate is 65 percent higher than in the rest of the Nation. Let me repeat that. In Appalachia, the opioid-related overdose rate is 65 percent higher than the rest of the country.

But the people of Appalachia are resilient, and they are problem solvers. They have taken important strides to combat this problem holistically.

Operation UNITE in my district, where it began, is a leading national example. UNITE, Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education, is a three-pronged, holistic approach to tackle this monster.

I was really heartened and grateful when Chairman BARLETTA invited Operation UNITE's CEO, Nancy Hale, to testify before his subcommittee about the unique challenges UNITE confronts in southern and eastern Kentucky, and the creative solutions they have employed to beat back against this scourge.

Today, I remain grateful for his leadership in shepherding H.R. 5294 through the House floor. This bill will bolster the Appalachian Regional Commission's role in combating the opioid epidemic.

ARC has always been a valued partner in our fight, but this legislation clarifies that the commission can and should make targeted investments to reduce barriers to workforce development; attract and retain healthcare services, businesses, and workers; and develop relevant infrastructure, including broadband, which can be used for telemedicine treatment.

These investments are critical for my district and the entire Appalachian region, and I urge other Members to support this bill.

Let me thank, again, Chairman BARLETTA for his great leadership in this problem. He is a recognized expert, and he has proven he cares for the people that he represents and that the rest of us represent.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5294.

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.

STOP ILLICIT DRUG IMPORTATION ACT OF 2018

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5752) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of certain drugs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5752

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Stop Illicit Drug Importation Act of 2018''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

SEC. 2. DETENTION, REFUSAL, AND DESTRUCTION OF DRUGS OFFERED FOR IMPORTATION.

(a) ARTICLES TREATED AS DRUGS FOR PURPOSES OF IMPORTATION.—Section 801 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(t) ARTICLES TREATED AS DRUGS FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.—

''(1) LABELED ARTICLES.—An article shall not be treated as a drug pursuant to this subsection if—

''(A) an electronic import entry for such article is submitted using an authorized electronic data interchange system; and

''(B) such article is designated in such system as a drug, device, dietary supplement, or other product that is regulated under this Act.

''(2) ARTICLES COVERED.—Subject to paragraph (1), for purposes of this section, an article described in this paragraph may be treated by the Secretary as a drug if it—

''(A) is or contains an ingredient that is an active ingredient that is contained within—

''(i) a drug that has been approved under section 505 of this Act; or

''(ii) a biological product that has been approved under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act;

''(B) is or contains an ingredient that is an active ingredient in a drug or biological product if—

''(i) an investigational use exemption has been authorized for such drug or biological product under section 505(i) of this Act or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act;

''(ii) substantial clinical investigation has been instituted for such drug or biological product; and

''(iii) the existence of such clinical investigation has been made public; or

''(C) is or contains a substance that has a chemical structure that is substantially similar to the chemical structure of an active ingredient in a drug or biological product described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

''(3) EFFECT.—Except to the extent that an article may be treated as a drug pursuant to paragraph (2), this subsection shall not be construed as bearing on or being relevant to the question of whether any article is a drug as defined in section 201(g).''.

(b) ARTICLES OF CONCERN.—

(1) DELIVERY BY TREASURY TO HHS.—The first sentence of section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended by striking ''and cosmetics'' and inserting ''cosmetics, and potential articles of concern (as defined in subsection (u))''.

(2) REFUSED ADMISSION.—The third sentence of section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended by striking ''then such article shall be refused admission'' and inserting ''or (5) such article is an article of concern (as defined in subsection (u)), or (6) such article is a drug that is being imported or offered for import in violation of section 301(cc), then such article shall be refused admission''.

(3) DEFINITION OF ARTICLE OF CONCERN.—Section 801 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(u) ARTICLE OF CONCERN DEFINED.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term 'article of concern' means an article that is or contains a drug or other substance—

''(1) for which, during the 24-month period prior to the article being imported or offered for import, the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

''(A) has requested that, based on a determination that the drug or other substance appears to meet the requirements for temporary or permanent scheduling pursuant to section 201 of the Controlled Substances Act, the Attorney General initiate the process to control the drug or other substance in accordance with such Act; or

''(B) has, following the publication by the Attorney General of a notice in the Federal Register of the intention to issue an order temporarily scheduling such drug or substance in schedule I of section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act pursuant to section 201(h) of such Act, made a determination that such article presents an imminent hazard to public safety; and

''(2) with respect to which the Attorney General has not—

''(A) scheduled the drug or other substance under such Act; or

''(B) notified the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Attorney General has made a determination not to schedule the drug or other substance under such Act.''.

SEC. 3. SEIZURE.

Section 304(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 334(b)) is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''The article, equipment, or other thing proceeded against shall be liable to seizure by process pursuant to the libel, and the procedure in cases under this section shall conform, as nearly as may be, to the procedure in admiralty rather than the procedure used for civil asset forfeiture proceedings set forth in section 983 of title 18, United States Code. On demand of either party any issue of fact joined in any such a case brought under this section shall be tried by jury. A seizure brought under this section is not governed by Rule G of the Supplemental Rules of Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions. Exigent circumstances shall be deemed to exist for all seizures brought under this section, and in such cases, the summons and arrest warrant shall be issued by the clerk of the court without court review.''.

SEC. 4. DEBARRING VIOLATIVE INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES.

(a) PROHIBITED ACT.—Section 301(cc) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331(cc)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''an article of food'' the following: ''or a drug''; and

(2) by inserting after ''a person debarred'' the following: ''from such activity''.

(b) DEBARMENT.—Section 306(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 335a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2) or (3)'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting '', or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) a person from importing or offering to import into the United States—

''(i) a controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act; or

''(ii) any drug, if such drug is declared to be valued at an amount that is $2,500 or less (or such higher amount as the Secretary of the Treasury may set by regulation pursuant to section 498(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930), or if such drug is entering the United States by mail.''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the paragraph heading after ''FOOD'' by inserting ''OR DRUG'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and moving the indentation of each such clause 2 ems to the right;

(C) after making the amendments required by subparagraph (B), by striking ''A person is subject'' and inserting the following:

''(A) FOOD.—A person is subject''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) IMPORTATION OF DRUGS.—A person is subject to debarment under paragraph (1)(D) if—

''(i) the person has been convicted of a felony for conduct relating to the importation into the United States of any drug or controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act); or

''(ii) the person has engaged in a pattern of importing or offering for import articles of drug that are—

''(I)(aa) adulterated, misbranded, or in violation of section 505; and

''(bb) present a threat of serious adverse health consequences or death to humans or animals; or

''(II) controlled substances whose importation is prohibited pursuant to section 401(m) of the Tariff Act of 1930.

''(C) DEFINITION.—For purposes of subparagraph (B), the term 'pattern of importing or offering for import articles of drug' means importing or offering for import articles of drug described in subclause (I) or (II) of subparagraph (B)(ii) in an amount, frequency, or dosage that is inconsistent with personal or household use by the importer.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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 this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of this important piece of legislation. This bill will get FDA the tools the agency needs to intercept illicit substances coming through our country's international mail facilities. Illicit and unapproved drugs entering the U.S. supply chain through these facilities pose serious public health threats.

Hundreds of millions of parcels go through the IMF facilities each year, and it has been reported that the number of packages processed by the Nation's nine IMFs nearly doubled from 2013 to 2015. These facilities now receive more than 275 million packages annually.

Although the FDA has increased the number of investigators it has in the facilities, it is estimated that the FDA can only physically inspect less than 0.06 percent of the packages that might contain drugs or drug products.

In conjunction with H.R. 5228, led by Representative PALLONE and passed by the House yesterday, this bill will give the FDA the flexibility and the tools the agency needs to effectively and efficiently seize illicit or unapproved drugs, and to prohibit bad actors from continuing to ship these deadly products into the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to help stop the entrance of illegal opioids and other drugs that might harm Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5752, the Stop Illicit Drug Importation Act of 2018.

In 2016, 42,000 Americans died from opioid-related overdoses alone, including more than 2,800 victims of opioid addiction in my home State of Texas.

One of the contributing factors to the opioid epidemic is the illicit importation of opioid drugs. According to Commissioner Gottlieb: ''FDA investigators are the last line of defense at the international mail facilities'' when it comes to preventing illicit drugs from entering our country.

Despite the fact that more than 2 million packages are received each day at our international mail facilities, FDA only has the capacity and resources to inspect 40,000 of these. More must be done to equip the FDA, both from the resource perspective but also with the law enforcement perspective.

This is why I was also pleased to support the SCREEN Act, which was passed yesterday, and would authorize additional resources for FDA to take on this fight and grant FDA greater authority to destroy and recall drugs that pose harm to public health.

The Stop Illicit Drug Importation Act of 2018 empowers the FDA to refuse admission and destroy imports identified as items of concern by the FDA and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The bill will also help streamline seizure procedures and debar individuals and companies that repeatedly violate Federal law from being able to import in the United States.

This commonsense measure passed by the Energy and Commerce Committee by voice vote last month will help stem the tide of illegal and illicit products, including opioids, from entering our country from international mail facilities. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee on both sides of the aisle, thanks for your great work on this bill. My colleague, Congresswoman BLACKBURN from Tennessee, this is an issue she has worked on for a long time—we will just say a long time—with great passion and great diligence.

We had the subcommittee chair of the Health Subcommittee, Dr. BURGESS, go up to the facility in New Jersey recently and observe firsthand what happens, what transpires there.

My colleague, Mr. GREEN, and others have talked about the number of packages that go through the facility versus the number that are actually inspected.

Then, I know we have all had pretty good conversations with Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the now-Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and he has done marvelous work with the limited tools that he has to really ramp up their ability to try to stop these shipments of illegal fentanyl.

For those here in the Chamber, you have to understand illegal fentanyl. If you took a salt shaker and put, I don't know, half a dozen grains of salt on

this podium and put your finger on it, it would likely go through your skin and you would pass out and die, unless my colleague from Texas or Tennessee here, or the House Physician, had some naloxone they could come and revive you. It is that potent; it is that dangerous; it is that deadly; and that is what is getting cut into heroin.

By the way, you can always trust your local heroin dealer to get the right mixture. They are good chemists, I am sure. No, not. But that is what is getting cut in.

That is what we are trying to stop with this legislation, this illegal fentanyl coming in through the mail system from foreign countries, mainly China, stop it from getting into our country.

That is why I want to commend Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GREEN, and others, everybody who was involved in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I also take the floor because, over the course of this week and next week, we will deal with more than 57 different opioid-related bills. We have heard from Republicans and Democrats. This is an epidemic that doesn't check your party registration before it sickens or kills or addicts somebody in your family or your community. Throughout all this, we have had terrific support, not only from our Members, but also from our staff and on both sides of the aisle.

There is somebody I want to single out today on our side of the aisle who, unfortunately, has decided to pursue other endeavors. Paul Edattel has served as the chief counsel for our Health Subcommittee since 2016 under then-Chairman FRED UPTON.

□ 1415

Prior to that, he served our Health Subcommittee on an abundance of healthcare issues, as well as being hired to be Speaker Boehner's top health policy staffer. But timing has a funny way of getting in the way of things, and following Speaker Boehner's decision to leave the Congress, we were able to persuade Paul Edattel to come back to the Energy and Commerce Committee.

In fact, when I became chairman of the committee, I remember meeting in Speaker RYAN's office when we were just getting started, and I was choosing the final staff and Speaker RYAN looked at me and said: I don't care who else you keep or don't keep, but that guy over there is the brightest guy around on health policy.

I said: I agree, and we have already reached our agreement that he would continue on.

His service has been our gain and that of the country's. Paul has helped lead our push on the floor on these issues with his very talented team; and just as my colleagues and I have made this our top issue, so has Paul. At the same time, he has ensured other critical healthcare policy priorities continue to move through our processes.

Paul is one of the best. He is also a machine. He has been guiding this committee on the Nation's top healthcare issues for many years, including our comprehensive review of America's mental health laws that we passed in, I think, a big bipartisan vote last Congress, helped engineer through the 21st Century Cures Act, our opioids act, and so many other pieces of legislation.

Paul is also a wonderful family man, a great individual with tremendous integrity and insight, and we will miss his friendly smile and unmatched understanding of how this place works. We will even miss his unwavering support for the Buffalo Bills, if you are a Buffalo Bills fan. If you are not, you will be glad to see him go, probably. It has been an honor to work with Paul and call him a trusted adviser and, moreover, a friend.

So, Paul, as you begin your new chapter in your new career, I join with all of our Energy and Commerce Committee members and staff, I think, on both sides of the aisle in wishing you the very best and thanking you for your service, Paul Edattel.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to join our chairman in thanking our staff. We couldn't be here today without our staff working on these.

But this bill is so important. I have been on the docks of the Port of Houston and watched these containers come in off the ships and them being inspected. The FDA agents there are frustrated with it, even in our international mail facilities that are actually in our district in Texas. So that is why this bill is so important, and I am glad for my colleague from Tennessee to be sponsoring this bill.

I have no other speakers, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard the mention of bipartisan work and bipartisan support on these issues, and Chairman WALDEN is exactly right.

Not only have Members worked in a bipartisan way, but also our staffs have to answer the questions: How do we help to get the resources to our local and our State officials? How do we help to remove barriers so we can end this epidemic in our country?

Last year, 63,632 Americans lost their lives to drug abuse and drug overdose, and 1,600 of those were Tennesseans. We can all tell you these stories, and I tell you as a mom and as a friend, so many times when you talk to families and talk to people who have been so affected and so impacted by this, they talk about family members and coworkers and individuals that they are in contact with every single day and how we need to work on this issue with opioids, with fentanyl, with heroin, with cocaine, these illicit drugs that are flooding our streets, as well as the pills.

Now, last October, during a hearing when Dr. Gottlieb was before us and we were conducting oversight with the FDA, one of the things that he mentioned was there were some changes that they needed to see in Federal law. The number one change they needed was permission to work some changes in Federal statute for how they would work in these international mail facilities.

As we have said, there are hundreds of millions of packages. As Congressman GREEN said, they cannot get ahead of the work. So we have come together. The Stop Illicit Drug Importation Act is something that will be helpful to getting the job done and getting these drugs off the streets. Indeed, they will never get to the streets. They will never get to the streets because there will be the ability to stop them and dispose of these drugs before they ever get to the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5752, 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.

CURBING REALISTIC EXPLOITATIVE ELECTRONIC PEDOPHILIC ROBOTS ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4655) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4655

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Curbing Realistic Exploitative Electronic Pedophilic Robots Act of 2017'' or as the ''CREEPER Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) There is a correlation between possession of the obscene dolls, and robots, and possession of and participation in child pornography.

(2) The physical features, and potentially the ''personalities'' of the robots are customizable or morphable and can resemble actual children.

(3) Some owners and makers of the robots have made their children interact with the robots as if the robots are members of the family.

(4) The robots can have settings that simulate rape.

(5) The dolls and robots not only lead to rape, but they make rape easier by teaching the rapist about how to overcome resistance and subdue the victim.