The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RESPONSIBLE EDUCATION ACHIEVES CARE AND HEALTHY OUTCOMES FOR USERS' TREATMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5796) to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants for eligible entities to provide technical assistance to outlier prescribers of opioids, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5796

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 ''Responsible Education Achieves Care and Healthy Outcomes for Users' Treatment Act of 2018'' or the ''REACH OUT Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OUTLIER PRESCRIBERS OF OPIOIDS.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities for the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements awarded under subsection (a) shall be used to support eligible entities through technical assistance—

(1) to educate and provide outreach to outlier prescribers of opioids about best practices for prescribing opioids;

(2) to educate and provide outreach to outlier prescribers of opioids about non-opioid pain management therapies; and

(3) to reduce the amount of opioid prescriptions prescribed by outlier prescribers of opioids.

(c) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity seeking to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(d) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize establishing technical assistance resources in each State.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) an organization—

(i) that has demonstrated experience providing technical assistance to health care professionals on a State or regional basis; and

(ii) that has at least—

(I) one individual who is a representative of consumers on its governing body; and

(II) one individual who is a representative of health care providers on its governing body; or

(B) an entity that is a quality improvement entity with a contract under part B of title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320c et seq.).

(2) OUTLIER PRESCRIBER OF OPIOIDS.—The term ''outlier prescriber of opioids'' means a prescriber, identified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (through use of prescriber information provided by prescriber National Provider Identifiers included pursuant to section 1860D–4(c)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–104(c)(4)(A)) on claims for covered part D drugs for part D eligible individuals enrolled in prescription drug plans under part D of title XVIII of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–101 et seq.) and MA–PD plans under part C of such title (42 U.S.C. 1395w–21 et seq.)) as prescribing, as compared to other prescribers in the specialty of the prescriber and geographic area, amounts of opioids in excess of a threshold (and other criteria) specified by the Secretary, after consultation with stakeholders.

(3) PRESCRIBERS.—The term ''prescriber'' means any health care professional, including a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, who is licensed to prescribe opioids by the State or territory in which such professional practices.

(f) FUNDING.—For purposes of implementing this section, $75,000,000 shall be available from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 3. PROMOTING VALUE IN MEDICAID MANAGED CARE.

Section 1903(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(m)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7)(A) With respect to expenditures described in subparagraph (B) that are incurred by a State for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2025 (and before fiscal year 2029), in determining the pro rata share to which the United States is equitably entitled under subsection (d)(3), the Secretary shall substitute the Federal medical assistance percentage that applies for such fiscal year to the State under section 1905(b) (without regard to any adjustments to such percentage applicable under such section or any other provision of law) for the percentage that applies to such expenditures under section 1905(y).

''(B) Expenditures described in this subparagraph, with respect to a fiscal year to which subparagraph (A) applies, are expenditures incurred by a State for payment for medical assistance provided to individuals described in subclause (VIII) of section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) by a managed care entity, or other specified entity (as defined in subparagraph (D)(iii)), that are treated as remittances because the State—

''(i) has satisfied the requirement of section 438.8 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), by electing—

''(I) in the case of a State described in subparagraph (C), to apply a minimum medical loss ratio (as defined in subparagraph (D)(ii)) that is at least 85 percent but not greater than the minimum medical loss ratio (as so defined) that such State applied as of May 31, 2018; or

''(II) in the case of a State not described in subparagraph (C), to apply a minimum medical loss ratio that is equal to 85 percent; and

''(ii) recovered all or a portion of the expenditures as a result of the entity's failure to meet such ratio.

''(C) For purposes of subparagraph (B), a State described in this subparagraph is a State that as of May 31, 2018, applied a minimum medical loss ratio (as calculated under subsection (d) of section 438.8 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on June 1, 2018)) for payment for services provided by entities described in such subparagraph under the State plan under this title (or a waiver of the plan) that is equal to or greater than 85 percent.

''(D) For purposes of this paragraph:

''(i) The term 'managed care entity' means a medicaid managed care organization described in section 1932(a)(1)(B)(i).

''(ii) The term 'minimum medical loss ratio' means, with respect to a State, a minimum medical loss ratio (as calculated under subsection (d) of section 438.8 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on June 1, 2018)) for payment for services provided by entities described in subparagraph (B) under the State plan under this title (or a waiver of the plan).

''(iii) The term 'other specified entity' means—

''(I) a prepaid inpatient health plan, as defined in section 438.2 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

''(II) a prepaid ambulatory health plan, as defined in such section (or any successor regulation).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN. 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 on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague Representative FITZPATRICK, who is here on the floor with us today, as well as Representative CURBELO and Representative THOMPSON. They all worked very hard to make this bipartisan legislation a success.

H.R. 5796 would establish technical assistance grants to make best practices available to those providers who are identified as opioid-prescribing outliers. This bill would establish a means of identifying statistical outliers and then notifying providers if they are an outlier.

In addition, the bill authorizes quality improvement organizations and other grant recipients to review prescribing patterns and to share educational materials and best practices. This legislation will ensure that best prescribing practices are clinically appropriate for patients and are implemented throughout the Medicare program.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2018.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: On May 9 and 17, 2018, the Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered favorably reported over 50

bills to address the opioid epidemic facing communities across our nation. Several of the bills were also referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

I ask that the Committee on Ways and Means not insist on its referral of the following bills so that they may be scheduled for consideration by the Majority Leader:

H.R. 1925, At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act of 2017;

H.R. 3331, To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to promote testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology;

H.R. 3528, Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act;

H.R. 4841, Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization for Safe Prescribing Act of 2018;

H.R. 5582, Abuse Deterrent Access Act of 2018;

H.R. 5590, Opioid Addiction Action Plan Act;

H.R. 5603, Access to Telehealth Services for Opioid Use Disorder;

H.R. 5605, Advancing High Quality Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders in Medicare Act;

H.R. 5675, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require prescription drug plan sponsors under the Medicare program to establish drug management programs for at-risk beneficiaries;

H.R. 5684, Protecting Seniors from Opioid Abuse Act;

H.R. 5685, Medicare Opioid Safety Education Act;

H.R. 5686, Medicare Clear Health Options in Care for Enrollees (CHOICE) Act;

H.R. 5715, Strengthening Partnerships to Prevent Opioid Abuse Act;

H.R. 5716, Commit to Opioid Medical Prescriber Accountability and Safety for Seniors (COMPASS) Act;

H.R. 5796, Responsible Education Achieves Care and Healthy Outcomes for Users' Treatment (REACH OUT) Act of 2018;

H.R. 5798, Opioid Screening and Chronic Pain Management Alternatives for Seniors Act;

H.R. 5804, Post-Surgical Injections as an Opioid Alternative Act; and

H.R. 5809, Postoperative Opioid Prevention Act of 2018.

This concession in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of these bills, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bills be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and your response in the bill reports and the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

GREG WALDEN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2018.

Hon. GREG WALDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WALDEN: Thank you for your letter concerning several bills favorably reported out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to address the opioid epidemic and which the Committee on Ways and Means was granted an additional referral.

As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within these bills that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive formal consideration of the following bills so that they may move expeditiously to the floor:

H.R. 1925, At-Risk Youth Medicaid Protection Act of 2017;

H.R. 3331, To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to promote testing of incentive payments for behavioral health providers for adoption and use of certified electronic health record technology;

H.R. 3528, Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act;

H.R. 4841, Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization for Safe Prescribing Act of 2018;

H.R. 5582, Abuse Deterrent Access Act of 2018;

H.R. 5590, Opioid Addiction Action Plan Act;

H.R. 5603, Access to Telehealth Services for Opioid Use Disorder;

H.R. 5605, Advancing High Quality Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders in Medicare Act;

H.R. 5675, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require prescription drug plan sponsors under the Medicare program to establish drug management programs for at-risk beneficiaries;

H.R. 5684, Protecting Seniors from Opioid Abuse Act;

H.R. 5685, Medicare Opioid Safety Education Act;

H.R. 5686, Medicare Clear Health Options in Care for Enrollees (CHOICE) Act;

H.R. 5715, Strengthening Partnerships to Prevent Opioid Abuse Act;

H.R. 5716, Commit to Opioid Medical Prescriber Accountability and Safety for Seniors (COMPASS) Act;

H.R. 5796, Responsible Education Achieves Care and Healthy Outcomes for Users' Treatment (REACH OUT) Act of 2018;

H.R. 5798, Opioid Screening and Chronic Pain Management Alternatives for Seniors Act;

H.R. 5804, Post-Surgical Injections as an Opioid Alternative Act; and

H.R. 5809, Postoperative Opioid Prevention Act of 2018.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and requests your support for such a request.

Finally, I would appreciate your commitment to include this exchange of letters in the bill reports and the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), one of the authors of this important legislation.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the opioid epidemic is devastating my community in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. I talk to these families every day.

As our Nation continues to grapple with the deadly effects of the opioid epidemic, it is crucial we take every step possible to stop prescription medication from falling into the wrong hands. We need to ensure that our medical professionals possess the latest best practices for preventing prescription medication abuse, including nonopioid pain management. This is why I am proud the House is considering my REACH OUT Act, H.R. 5796.

By facilitating outreach to outlier opioid prescribers, the REACH OUT Act seeks to educate physicians on their prescribing behaviors without limiting their ability to deliver patient care. It will be an effective step toward reducing the amount of unnecessary prescription opioids in communities across the Nation.

The Responsible Education Achieves Care and Healthy Outcomes for Users' Treatment Act, the REACH OUT Act, H.R. 5796, will direct the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to work with eligible entities, including quality improvement organizations, to engage in outreach with prescribers identified as clinical outliers to share best practices to evaluate their prescribing behavior.

□ 1500

H.R. 5796 would build on the lessons learned from CMS special innovation projects, by spreading best practices for preventing prescription drug abuse, providing outreach and education about nonopioid pain management, and reducing the number of opioids prescribed by outlier prescribers.

An outlier prescriber is identified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with professional stakeholders, as one who prescribes an excessive number of opioids as compared to other prescribers in their medical specialty or geographic area.

Our Nation's drug epidemic is a complicated issue, and our response must be multifaceted. This means giving providers the tools they need to prevent opioid abuse.

I want to thank my colleagues CARLOS CURBELO and MIKE THOMPSON for their support in authoring this bill. And I want to thank our chairman, GREG WALDEN, and his Energy and Commerce Committee for their relentless effort to combat the opioid epidemic across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, to support the passage of our REACH OUT Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5796, the REACH OUT Act.

This bill creates grants for technical assistance education for outlier prescribers of opioids. The recipients of these grants, Mr. Speaker, will educate outlier prescribers on best practices for prescribing opioids and provide instruction on how to reduce the number of opioids prescribed in the future.

Coupled with legislation we will also consider today that would require notification of outlier prescribers of

opioids, this bill will further provide outlier prescribers with the tools to return to the appropriate prescribing range for their specialty to help reduce overprescribing.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that we have just been informed that there will be a last-minute change to two of the suspension prints under consideration today in order to accommodate a request from the Appropriations Committee.

The minority only received notice of these changes within the last hour. While they appear to be changes that are technical in nature to address the jurisdictional issues, we want to highlight our concerns with the last-minute changes being made to legislative text that are being considered on the floor with such short notice. It is not the best way to legislate, especially on bipartisan bills on such an important topic.

My colleagues and I have expressed some concern about this process, and this latest issue reinforces those concerns. We urge the Speaker to commit to continuing to work with us on a bipartisan basis to avoid some of these changes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. I hope the House will support it as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support of this legislation.

We also were just notified not long ago about the appropriations flag, and we are working out those matters at a higher pay level. So, we appreciate and understand.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). 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. 5796, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants for eligible entities to provide technical assistance to outlier prescribers of opioids, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADVANCING HIGH QUALITY TREATMENT FOR OPIOID USE DISORDERS IN MEDICARE ACT

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5605) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an opioid use disorder treatment demonstration program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5605

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 ''Advancing High Quality Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders in Medicare Act''.

SEC. 2. OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1866E (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–5) the following new section:

''SEC. 1866F. OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

''(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF 4-YEAR DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2021, the Secretary shall implement a 4-year demonstration program under this title (in this section referred to as the 'Program') to increase access of applicable beneficiaries to opioid use disorder treatment services, improve physical and mental health outcomes for such beneficiaries, and to the extent possible, reduce expenditures under this title. Under the Program, the Secretary shall make payments under subsection (e) to participants (as defined in subsection (c)(1)(A)) for furnishing opioid use disorder treatment services delivered through opioid use disorder care teams, or arranging for such service to be furnished, to applicable beneficiaries participating in the Program.

''(2) OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'opioid use disorder treatment services'—

''(A) means, with respect to an applicable beneficiary, services that are furnished for the treatment of opioid use disorders and that utilize drugs approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for the treatment of opioid use disorders in an outpatient setting; and

''(B) includes—

''(i) medication assisted treatment;

''(ii) treatment planning;

''(iii) psychiatric, psychological, or counseling services (or any combination of such services), as appropriate;

''(iv) social support services, as appropriate; and

''(v) care management and care coordination services, including coordination with other providers of services and suppliers not on an opioid use disorder care team.

''(b) PROGRAM DESIGN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall design the Program in such a manner to allow for the evaluation of the extent to which the Program accomplishes the following purposes:

''(A) Reduces hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

''(B) Increases use of medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders.

''(C) Improves health outcomes of individuals with opioid use disorders, including by reducing the incidence of infectious diseases (such as hepatitis C and HIV).

''(D) Does not increase the total spending on items and services under this title.

''(E) Reduces deaths from opioid overdose.

''(F) Reduces the utilization of inpatient residential treatment.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—In designing the Program, including the criteria under subsection (e)(2)(A), the Secretary shall, not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this section, consult with specialists in the field of addiction, clinicians in the primary care community, and beneficiary groups.

''(c) PARTICIPANTS; OPIOID USE DISORDER CARE TEAMS.—

''(1) PARTICIPANTS.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'participant' means an entity or individual—

''(i) that is otherwise enrolled under this title and that is—

''(I) a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1));

''(II) a group practice comprised of at least one physician described in subclause (I);

''(III) a hospital outpatient department;

''(IV) a federally qualified health center (as defined in section 1861(aa)(4));

''(V) a rural health clinic (as defined in section 1861(aa)(2));

''(VI) a community mental health center (as defined in section 1861(ff)(3)(B));

''(VII) a clinic certified as a certified community behavioral health clinic pursuant to section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014; or

''(VIII) any other individual or entity specified by the Secretary;

''(ii) that applied for and was selected to participate in the Program pursuant to an application and selection process established by the Secretary; and

''(iii) that establishes an opioid use disorder care team (as defined in paragraph (2)) through employing or contracting with health care practitioners described in paragraph (2)(A), and uses such team to furnish or arrange for opioid use disorder treatment services in the outpatient setting under the Program

''(B) PREFERENCE.—In selecting participants for the Program, the Secretary shall give preference to individuals and entities that are located in areas with a prevalence of opioid use disorders that is higher than the national average prevalence.

''(2) OPIOID USE DISORDER CARE TEAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'opioid use disorder care team' means a team of health care practitioners established by a participant described in paragraph (1)(A) that—

''(i) shall include—

''(I) at least one physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1)) furnishing primary care services or addiction treatment services to an applicable beneficiary; and

''(II) at least one eligible practitioner (as defined in paragraph (3)(A)), who may be a physician who meets the criterion in subclause (I); and

''(ii) may include other practitioners licensed under State law to furnish psychiatric, psychological, counseling, and social services to applicable beneficiaries.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF PAYMENT UNDER PROGRAM.—In order to receive payments under subsection (e), each participant in the Program shall—

''(i) furnish opioid use disorder treatment services through opioid use disorder care teams to applicable beneficiaries who agree to receive the services;

''(ii) meet minimum criteria, as established by the Secretary; and

''(iii) submit to the Secretary, in such form, manner, and frequency as specified by the Secretary, with respect to each applicable beneficiary for whom opioid use disorder treatment services are furnished by the opioid use disorder care team, data and such other information as the Secretary determines appropriate to—

''(I) monitor and evaluate the Program;

''(II) determine if minimum criteria are met under clause (ii); and

''(III) determine the incentive payment under subsection (e).

''(3) ELIGIBLE PRACTITIONERS; OTHER PROVIDER-RELATED DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION PROVISIONS.—

''(A) ELIGIBLE PRACTITIONERS.—For purposes of this section, the term 'eligible practitioner' means a physician or other health