

or dependent on prescription pain relievers in the past year grew to an estimated 336,000, up from 132,000 a decade earlier, based on data from SAMHSA. Addiction does not recognize age, race, ethnicity, or income. Anyone could be susceptible including seniors.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General has recommended that Medicare have this type of a program. In a hearing, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Principal Deputy Administrator stated that they supported this policy, but needed a statutory change in the law to create such a program.

A change to the Medicare program is a herculean task. I want to thank some of the people that supported this provision and helped get this legislation over the finish line. Lindsay Berman from the Pew Charitable Trusts, Jerry Steffl, Jonathan Heafitz, Gary Kline, Sergio Santiviago, Richard Hoar, Heather Cutler, Nelson Bunn from the Major County Sheriffs Association, and Chuck DeWitt from the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber today because I was at the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hearing in New Orleans, LA, on President Barack Obama's immigration executive actions.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 431.

I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 432 and in favor of the Lee/Schakowsky/Clarke Amendment which would have struck from the underlying bill controversial policy riders that will undermine a woman's right to choose. This amendment would have protected women's health care choices and was especially vital to low-income and minority women's health.

I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 433 in support of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SALES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER MARK WEBER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement presented by the Institute for Excellence in Sales & Business Development (IES&BD). The Institute was created to foster excellence in business sales and development practices and to help organizations maximize their efforts. This annual award recognizes individuals, teams, and organizations throughout the United States who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development.

The 2015 IES&BD Lifetime Achievement Award honoree is Mark Weber of NetApp, a data management and cloud storage provider based in Vienna, Virginia. With over 30 years of experience in technology sales and engineering, Mr. Weber is a proven leader in Information Technology with particular expertise in serving the public sector.

Mr. Weber began his career as a federal account manager for Hewlett-Packard and later joined Sun Microsystems where he managed a diverse portfolio and served in a variety of positions including regional executive director for federal, state, and local government sales.

At NetApp, as Senior Vice President for the Americas, Mr. Weber leads sales, channels, engineering, professional services, business development, finance, operations, and marketing across North America, South America, and U.S. Public Sector. Prior to his current role, Mr. Weber served as the President and General Manager of NetApp U.S. Public Sector for ten years. He was responsible for managing and developing government business at the federal, state, and local levels in addition to higher education and teaching hospitals.

Under his leadership, NetApp's Vienna office was ranked in the top 10 for the best places to work in D.C. for the sixth time by the Washington Business Journal as well as repeatedly listed in the Washingtonian's Best 50 Places to Work issue.

Mr. Weber's professionalism has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers. In 2014 he was recognized by the Wash100 Exec Ranks as an Innovative GovCon Technologist & Business Leader. He was also awarded the FedScoop50 Industry Leadership award in 2012 and 2013 and the Federal Computer Week's Federal 100 Award in 2011. Within NetApp, he has received the Club Award for nine straight years and is frequently recognized as Sales Leader of the Year within the larger organization.

Mr. Weber sits on the Advisory Council for the Department of Business & Economics at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and is a board member of the Virginia Tech Science and Engineering Regional Growth Enterprise (VT-SERGE).

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mark Weber for his many contributions to the federal IT procurement field and on congratulating him on receiving the 2015 Institute for Excellence in Sales & Business Development Lifetime Achievement Award.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Chair, today I stand in strong support of the 21st Century Cures Act. This bipartisan bill gives our nation's best and brightest the tools they need to understand—and eventually defeat disease—and reauthorizes both the National Institutes of

Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The 21st Century Cures Act has the potential to accelerate the discovery of drugs for life-threatening illnesses; repurpose drugs found ineffective for one condition and test them on another; promote an interoperable health system; enhance telehealth practices; and advance the development of more targeted, personalized treatments.

My district, the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, is home to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Southern Research Institute, and the University of Alabama. NIH funding is critical to the continuing vitality of these three leading institutions, as well as to the region.

The prospect of this act alone provides hope. Hope that cures can be discovered, hope that one day no diagnoses indicate inevitable ailment or death, and hope that one day treatments will yield more reward than risk.

Despite the potential of this bill, there are two amendments that threaten that hope and essentially aim to inhibit the health of several Americans. First, the Hyde Amendment has reared its ugly head yet again. It is a harmful and discriminatory bill that prevents women from making their own healthcare decisions. Further, it serves as a stark contradiction to efforts geared toward providing health positive resources for all.

Second, the Brat amendment aims to convert the federal funding of the NIH and the FDA from mandatory to discretionary. Such a transaction would stifle the progress both federal agencies have already made and will continue to make. It will singlehandedly reverse the trajectory of medical progress and halt further research efforts.

With only 5 percent of rare diseases having an FDA-approved treatment, it would be a gross understatement to say our medical systems have failed to keep pace. Viruses and diseases will not wait for us to catch up; they will mutate, grow ever more virulent, and continue to impact our public health. We need to leverage our investments to make potentially game-changing strides in treatment. We need 21st century solutions for 21st century threats.

An investment in health affects more than our physical well-being, and the 21st Century Cures Act reflects this. H.R. 6 is not only a health bill; it is a jobs bill. Our country has been the leader in both the medical device and biopharmaceutical industry for decades, helping us become the core of global medical innovation. This puts a target on our backs, as China and other countries have attempted to attempt to claim this role and thus, our jobs. U.S. medical device-related employment totals over 2 million jobs, and the U.S. biopharmaceutical industry is responsible for over 4 million U.S. jobs. NIH funding currently supports over 400,000 jobs at research institutions across the country, including jobs for young and upcoming scientists. Without this funding, our jobs are out there for the taking. Without this funding, the thousands of jobs in my district provided by the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Southern Research Institute, and the University of Alabama are not safe. The policies in this legislation will help us fight off foreign competitors and allow us to continue innovating, so we can all protect medical jobs in our districts and add more.

We must get serious about addressing the unmet medical needs of the American people.