

executive director and other personnel without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(3) **AGENCY ASSISTANCE.**—Following consultation with and upon the request of the Chairman of the Commission, the head of any agency may detail an employee of the agency to the Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(4) **GAO AND OIRA ASSISTANCE.**—The Comptroller General of the United States and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs shall provide assistance, including the detailing of employees, to the Commission in accordance with an agreement entered into with the Commission.

(d) **PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.**—The Chairman of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(e) **CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.**—The Commission may acquire administrative supplies and equipment for Commission use to the extent funds are available.

(f) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

#### **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

The Commission shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the Commission submits its report under section 4.

#### **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to the Commission to carry out this Act.

(b) **AVAILABILITY.**—Any sums appropriated under the authorization contained in this section shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until expended.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 580, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the substitute amendment to provide a bipartisan approach to this regulatory reform discussion.

As a CPA and a small-business owner myself, I have seen firsthand the burden that unnecessary regulations can have on businesses, particularly small businesses.

My substitute amendment would establish a regulatory improvement commission consisting of experts appointed by the President and congressional leaders of both parties to evaluate and provide recommendations for the modification, consolidation, or repeal of regulations that are unnecessarily burdensome.

The commission would have an aim toward reducing compliance costs, encouraging growth and innovation, and improving competitiveness, all while protecting public health and safety. After opportunities for input and consultation from experts, industry stakeholders, and the general public, the commission would submit a report to Congress containing proposed legislation to implement its adjusted changes. If Congress chooses to act and the President chooses to sign the report, agencies would have 180 days to implement.

My amendment is based on the Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015, which I was proud to introduce with the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) along with 14 cosponsors, 7 Democrats and 7 Republicans.

Our bipartisan proposal rejects the partisan approach before us today in favor of a true, bipartisan compromise that all Members should be able to get behind.

My constituents sent me to Congress with the expectation that I would be willing to work with anyone with a good idea. It shouldn't matter what party you have behind your name.

Traveling up and down my district, I hear the same thing from all of my constituents, whether they are Republican, Democrat, Tea Party alike. They get that there can be a cost to protecting the environment. But in my district on the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches, they also know that having clean water is probably worth it.

They also get that there can be a cost to protecting their workers and workplace safety. But many of them have had the same workers for many, many years, if not decades, and they know that the safety of their employees is also probably worth it.

So what frustrates, I think, those constituents the most and those business owners the most is the unnecessary red tape and the excessive costs for the hoops that they have to jump through that don't make the air any cleaner and don't make the projects any safer. They expect Washington to work to fix that problem. That is why I have offered this amendment today.

I know that some on the left are going to say that this goes too far and some on the right think it doesn't go far enough. But I also know that, in a divided government, the partisan bill before us will do nothing to help relieve the regulatory burden on the small businesses in my district and across this country.

Riddled with poison pills, the SCRUB Act is a messaging bill, trying to send a message about one side allegedly not caring enough about jobs and the other side doesn't care enough about clean water or public safety.

But that is not the message that the small businesses care about and the small businesses in my district want to hear. They want results. They want solutions to this. Their message

shouldn't be that Congress doesn't care.

So while I hoped that we would be able to pick up where we left off on this bill in the last Congress and find some areas where we can come together to solve problems for the American people, I understand that there are concerns with the amendment, and I do intend to withdraw it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say how much I appreciate the gentleman from Florida's bipartisan work on this issue.

I look forward to working with the gentleman on this issue as well as other issues of joint concern, like criminal justice reform and the restoration of the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working together and to working with our friends on the other side of the aisle, getting back to getting things done for the American people.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BABIN) having assumed the chair, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1155) to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### **OBAMACARE**

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act came with a lot of promises. Remember the President's words in 2009, "If you like the plan you have, you can keep it. If you like the doctor you have, you can keep your doctor, too. The only change you'll see are falling costs as our reforms take hold."

This, Mr. Speaker, was false advertising. While some may have gained coverage under the ACA, far too many others were harmed by the law. Millions of Americans lost their plans or saw their premiums and out-of-pocket costs skyrocket, like the mom in my district who now has to pay \$400 for her daughter's lifesaving peanut allergy medication when it used to cost her \$10. That is not what was promised.

We need to empower all patients with more choice while also offering solutions for the uninsured and those with preexisting conditions. And there is a way. For decades, Republicans have proposed patient-centered, market-based answers to our health insurance challenges.

Today's historic vote, which is a victory over HARRY REID's 5 years of obstruction, gets us a step closer to real reform. I urge the President to sign today's bill.

#### FACES OF ADDICTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) is recognized for half the time remaining before 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise as the co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic to call upon my colleagues to refocus our efforts on bringing an end to the opioid epidemic that continues to threaten communities all across New Hampshire and across this country.

The opioid epidemic has grown to historic proportions. Our medical providers are struggling to keep up with the flow of overdoses entering our clinics and to secure treatment for those who need it.

Our law enforcement, as first responders, have taken on the burden of responding to more and more potentially dangerous situations when a call for help comes in, and these calls are becoming more and more frequent. Statistics now show that more Americans die from drug overdoses than do in car crashes in this country.

In my home State of New Hampshire, the opioid epidemic continues to grow. In 2015 alone, the total number of drug deaths in the Granite State exceeded 400, more than one per day, far surpassing the current record of fatalities set just last year at 324.

There is no doubt that these numbers are staggering. But behind each and every one of these numbers is a daughter or a son, a mother or a father, a community leader or a neighbor whose life was precious and whose death has inflicted terrible pain on loved ones.

For every life lost, there are also many more individuals and families whose lives have been forever changed by opioid misuse. We must never forget or overlook what each number represents.

As the epidemic has continued to infiltrate communities across New Hampshire and New England, experts and advocates have risen to challenge opioid abuse in a number of important ways and sometimes from unexpected places.

My dear friend Kriss and I have known each other for years now, and she has taken it upon herself to be a champion of this issue. Through her

unique position as a premier cosmetologist in the State and the makeup artist of choice for many of the Presidential candidates that pass through New Hampshire during primary season, Kriss has forced a conversation about the need to end the opioid epidemic onto the national stage.

Kriss has emerged as a leader on the issue back home, and she and her husband, Mark, continue to display remarkable courage and strength as she shares the story of her stepdaughter, Amber, who is with me here today in this Chamber, who lost her life to a heroin overdose.

Kriss' hope is that her experience might help and enact real change. So with Kriss' and Mark's blessing tonight, it is my honor to share Amber's story with you.

As Kriss puts it, Amber was the girl who helped everyone else. But, tragically, she could not help herself once she took that first drug at the young age of 15.

As Amber's stepmother, Kriss came into her life when she turned 17. At that point, Amber had already passed through the gateway drugs of over-the-counter Benadryl, marijuana, alcohol, and prescription opiates that were available on the streets.

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She suffered from untreated bipolar disorder, but she did not have access to the appropriate medication and, like so many others, was left uncomfortable in her own skin, self-prescribing medication to find relief.

In Kriss' words, Amber was a girl hard to catch. She chose "life on the run."

When she found herself living on the streets, she would help others by giving them the coat off her back, panhandling to buy food, or helping others as they detoxed from heroin while homeless.

By age 20, she took her first hit of heroin and became spellbound by it. It made choices for her. She had the opportunity to have a loving home, an education, and parents that could support her recovery, but her addiction led her to a life of homelessness on the streets of Manchester, New Hampshire.

After four incarcerations in the last 2 years of her life for heroin possession and prostitution, she was a victim of trafficking on the streets of Manchester to maintain her high.

When incarcerated and craving treatment, a bed finally became available for Amber at a wonderful treatment center in New Hampshire, but, meanwhile, the prison would not let her out. The prison itself offered no recovery. When she was released, the bed was no longer available. Amber even had to lie to the emergency room to get help by saying, "I want to kill myself."

She detoxed in that hospital, but no recovery aftercare was available. Kriss and her husband, Mark, brought Amber home, and on the third night, she fled

home leaving them a note that said, "I have to go back to my people."

The last time that Kriss and Mark saw her was Easter Sunday. She was high, vacant, and the drug had consumed her soul. Three days later she was found in an alley dead of a heroin overdose. She was 22 years old.

Her death would be easy to blame on institutional failure to ensure that those in need can access resources or on a general lack of empathy for individuals crippled by addiction. Kriss and Mark have made a conscious effort to use Amber's life, her death, and her ongoing vibrant spirit to wake up the hearts and minds of those who have the power to change fate.

Tonight, I share Amber's heart-wrenching story in the hopes that we can all recognize opioid abuse is not a disease singular to a certain socioeconomic group or race or region. It can take hold of anyone.

Amber's parents have been incredibly brave to share her story and to come to Washington to push for reform. We need to erase the stigma from substance abuse disorder, and we need to be far more honest and productive considering the effect on daughters or sons, mothers or fathers.

That is why tonight we called our colleagues together for this Special Order so that we can speak from both sides of the aisle and share the lives of friends and loved ones. It is my intention that by honoring those we have lost and by acknowledging the complexities of opioid abuse and the human lives that are behind these fatalities, we can come together to convey the urgency behind bringing an end to the opioid epidemic.

I yield to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join bipartisan Members, Republicans and Democrats from around the country, to talk about heroin use, an increasingly deadly public health crisis. I welcome Kriss and Mark from New Hampshire, who are here today to honor the life of Mark's daughter.

A special thank-you to Congresswoman ANN KUSTER, my fellow Granite Stater and partner on our Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. We formed this task force last year to bring attention to opiate addiction and overdose spreading nationwide. Now over 40 House Members have joined our task force and this cause.

We aim to inform not just members of the public, but the Nation about the tragedies and the challenges that face our families, our communities, our States, our loved ones, and our friends. We are here not just to combat this epidemic, but bring solutions not just to this body, but to every area of the Nation.

Congresswoman KUSTER and I have held a roundtable with addiction and law enforcement experts in Concord, New Hampshire, our home State. We