

Request for Manager's Amendment to H.R. 2483 SUPPORT Act Reauthorization

Submitted by: The Doctor Patient Forum

To: Chairwoman Virginia Foxx and Congressman Brett Guthrie

Date: June 3, 2025

What We're Requesting

We request, respectfully, a Manager's Amendment to Section 112 of H.R. 2483, to ensure that the FDA's upcoming benefit-risk report on opioid analgesics includes evaluation of the multiple harms associated with opioid dose reduction and medication discontinuation, especially in patients who have been stable on long-term therapy.

Grounds for Request

A growing body of evidence, including the FDA's 2019 Safety Warning and 16 peer-reviewed studies, demonstrates that opioid tapering can lead to harm to patients. Some of the documented harms are loss of function, increased disability, disengagement from care, higher healthcare utilization, mental health issues, suicide, and overdose.

Prescribing has dropped more than 50% since 2012. Yet further efforts to continue opioid dose reduction and elimination persist. Meanwhile, negative patient outcomes have not been documented, analyzed, or reported upon in any federal opioid risk evaluations.

Proposed Amendment Language

Please insert the following sentence into Section 112 (line 24) of the Rules Committee Print):

"Such report shall also include an evaluation of the harms associated with opioid dose reduction and discontinuation, including overdose, suicide, loss of function, treatment disengagement, and newly acquired disability among patients previously stable on long-term opioid therapy."

Supporting Evidence

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. *FDA Identifies Harm from Sudden Discontinuation of Opioids*. 2019.
<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-identifies-harm-reported-sudden-discontinuation-opioid-pain-medicines-and-requires-label-changes>
2. Lagisetty P, Kertesz S. Harms versus harms: rethinking treatment for patients on long-term opioids. *Substance Abuse*. 2023;44(3):112–114.
doi:10.1177/08897077231190697

3. The Doctor Patient Forum. *Summary Table: 16 Studies on the Harms of Opioid Tapering and Discontinuation*.
https://www.thedoctorpatientforum.com/images/Table_of_studies_5.12.25.pdf
4. American Medical Association Overdose Epidemic Report. 2024, P. 10
https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/ama-overdose-epidemic-report.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com