To: House Representatives

From: Committee on Energy and Commerce; Committee on the Judiciary

RE**: H.R 3889** **Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances Act**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**: This bill amends a covered practitioner to dispense or conduct research of controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV or V, to complete training that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) determines requirements met.

It requires such training to expose covered practitioners for: best practices for pain management, including alternatives to prescribe controlled substances; responsible prescribing of pain medications; methods for diagnosing, treating, and managing a substance use disorder, including evidence-based nonpharmacological therapies; ways of linking patients to evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders; and tools to manage adherence and diversion of controlled substances.

**Background**

* Health-care providers should be knowledgeable of the various classes of controlled substances as well as the potential for abuse among these classes.
* To minimize the potential for abuse and addiction and to ensure patient safety, evidence based prescribing practices should be used when treating pain with opioid medications.
* To require certain practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances to complete continuing education.

**Policy Alternatives**

1. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**Advantage:** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration must establish or support the establishment of at least one free, online training module that meets the requirements to be provided to any covered practitioner registered or applying for registration.

**Disadvantage:**

The bill states practitioners are required to complete training through classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications and more. Some practitioners can be exposed to more material than others depending where the setting is.

**Timetable for Action**

No later than 5 years after the date of enactment, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall evaluate and make a report available publically.

**Recommendation**

Directing or assisting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services to conduct trainings to ensure every practitioner receives the same information. This is essential in order to make prescribing controlled substances safer for both the prescribers and the patients.

References

Civic Impulse. (2016). H.R. 3889 — 114th Congress: Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances

Act. Retrieved from https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr3889

Safer Prescribing of Controlled Substances Act, H.R 3889 114th Cong. (2015

The Grade Transformer,

Please make sure the peer-reviewed articles aren’t older than 5 years.

I am not against this policy. I believe this bill will help many practitioners with this issue.

For the timetable action described previously, my professor said to include citation. I used the references listed under references for that information.

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr3889/details>

<https://www.popvox.com/bills/us/114/hr3889>

Thank you!