



Bipartisan bill addresses gaps in critical care

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A new bipartisan bill looks to address gaps in critical care research, develop new practices for ICU evacuations and force HHS to assess the availability of critical care practitioners in the federal government's medical response teams.

The Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act, introduced Wednesday by Reps. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Erik Paulsen (R-MN), was prompted by a set of recommendations made last July by the Critical Care Roundtable. The bill would create a coordinating council at the National Institutes of Health to identify gaps in critical care research, expand cost-cutting research, develop best practices for ICU evacuations and assess the state of the critical care workforce. It would also create a panel on emergency preparedness databases to assess information networks and improve resource awareness.

“Taxpayers, hardworking medical professionals and emergency responders alike all deserve a robust analysis of what's working and what's not so that we can move forward and fix this vital, yet costly, element of our health care delivery,” Paulsen said in a release.

A spokesperson for Baldwin said the issues this bill addresses did not come up during health reform because the recommendations were made after the bill's passage, and the proposal is intended to gather statistics not make policy recommendations.

–Brian Everstine