



805 15th Street NW, Suite 650 | Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-8700
www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org

Baldwin Calls for Inclusion of Critical Care Provisions During PAHPA Bill Markup

This morning, Tuesday, August 26, the House Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health held a markup of bipartisan health legislation, which included Rep. Mike Rogers' (R-MI) bill to reauthorize the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (H.R. 2405). As we previously mentioned, several Subcommittee Members made statements at last week's hearing highlighting the importance of the critical care system to our nation's medical response capabilities. This morning, one of the Roundtable's Congressional champions, Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), took the issue one step further, outlining the need for the inclusion of specific disaster-related provisions from her "Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act" in the PAHPA reauthorization. Rep. Baldwin stated during the Subcommittee markup, "We have made great strides in improving our medical preparedness and response capabilities since Congress last authorized the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act in 2006. However, I believe many would agree that more can be done to enhance this measure—particularly when it comes to ensuring that our medical response systems are prepared to care for the critically ill and injured in the aftermath of a public health emergency."

Rep. Baldwin pressed for the Committee to "incorporate... critical care into the priorities within the nation's medical preparedness goals. While the PAHPA legislation increases the preparedness, response capabilities, and surge capacity of hospitals and other health care facilities, and includes mental health facilities, trauma care, and emergency medical services systems, the measure before us does not currently prioritize critical care with respect to public health emergencies." Baldwin further emphasized that, "When a natural disaster strikes or a pandemic sweeps the nation, the demands on critical care increase exponentially. I hope we can work together to include critical care in this provision."

Rep. Baldwin then addressed the "desperate need to periodically evaluate the federal databases to ensure that our nation is prepared to meet any needs during a public health emergency," and called for language in the PAHPA bill that would provide for the periodic evaluation and testing of the various databases in place intended to ensure medical surge capacity. Rep. Baldwin illustrated this need with an example of one of our Roundtable participants' own experiences during Hurricane Katrina, a physician who volunteered but sat in a warehouse for several days, instead of being deployed into the field to provide needed medical care. Said Baldwin, "The system failed to identify where this physician's services could be utilized, despite the desperate need." To view a video of Rep. Baldwin delivering her full statement, please click [here](#).

At the markup, Rep. Rogers' substitute amendment to the PAHPA reauthorizing legislation was agreed to by a voice vote, and was reported favorably out of the Subcommittee for consideration by the full Energy & Commerce Committee. The full committee could take action yet this week.

The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy enthusiastically applauds Congresswoman Baldwin for her ongoing commitment to the critical care community, and commends the Health Subcommittee for holding today's markup. We look forward to working with the Congresswoman and the Committee Members to ensure the prioritization of critical care within the PAHPA reauthorization.

This Special Alert is an update from The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our website at www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org.