

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Markup of S.1657 the “Ticks: Identify, Control and Knockout Act”, S. 2619 the “Health Start Reauthorization Act of 2019”, S. 1399 the “Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019”, S. 995 the “Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019”, S. 1130 the “Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act”, S.1608 the “Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act”, S.2629 the “United States Public Health Service Modernization Act of 2019” and S.2740 the “Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act of 2019”

October 31, 2019

10:00AM, 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Purpose:

The purpose of the proceedings was to markup eight bills: S.1657 the “Ticks: Identify, Control and Knockout Act”, S. 2619 the “Health Start Reauthorization Act of 2019”, S. 1399 the “Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019”, S. 995 the “Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019”, S. 1130 the “Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act”, S.1608 the “Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act”, S.2629 the “United States Public Health Service Modernization Act of 2019” and S.2740 the “Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act of 2019.”

Opening Statements:

During his opening statement, **Chairman Alexander** said that this committee has a long history of working together despite a wide range of views. Numerous bipartisan bills have passed through this committee. The bills being considered today will help to improve the health and wellbeing of average Americans. Furthermore, these bills have been introduced by senators from both sides of the aisle and appear to have broad bipartisan support. Additionally, senators in this committee continue to work on legislation that will be introduced in future sessions.

During her opening statement, **Ranking Member Murray** said that today this committee has the opportunity to address several serious public health issues at the community level. Several of the bills work to improve Americans’ base of knowledge while others work to empower communities to fight back against adverse health outcomes. These bills have been championed by numerous senators and represent a true bipartisan effort. The leadership shown in the committee is inspiring and speaks to the possibility of passing real, impactful legislation.

Sen. Collins said that the TICK Act is a bipartisan public health approach to addressing vector borne diseases. It is Congress’ hope that the TICK Act can do more to prevent tragic deaths.

Sen. Collins asked for unanimous consent to change the short title of S.1657 to the ‘Kay Hagan TICK ACT’. **Senators** spoke in support of the change. **Sen. Collins** said the number of tick borne diseases is increasing considerably. Far too many Americans experience a very complex diagnostic odyssey. The TICK act would strengthen research and awareness to improve the lives of Americans inflicted with tick borne illness.

Sen. Smith said that Ticks are so much more than a nuisance, they are a public health hazard. She also spoke in support of S.2740.

Bill Consideration:

S. 1657, the “Kay Hagan Tick Act”:

Chairman Alexander offered a managers amendment in the nature of a substitute (AINS).

The amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 1657, as amended, was agreed to by a voice vote.

S. 1657, The Kay Hagan Tick Act, as amended, was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote.

S. 2619, the "Healthy Start Reauthorization Act":

Chairman Alexander offered a manager’s amendment to the AINS

The amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 2619, as amended, was agreed to by a voice vote.

S. 2619, the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote.

S.1399, the “Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019:

Chairman Alexander offered a manager’s amendment to the AINS.

Chairman Alexander offered an amendment to the AINS on behalf of **Sen. Murkowski**. The Amendment would improve community health aide in Alaska.

Sen. Murkowski’s amendment to the AINS was approved by a voice vote.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 1399, as amended, was agreed to by a voice vote.

S.1399, the Medicare Vison Act of 2019 was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote.

S. 995 the “Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019”:

Chairman Alexander offered a manager’s amendment to the AINS.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 995, as amended, was agreed to by a voice vote.

S. 995, the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019 was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote.

S. 1130 the “Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act”:

Chairman Alexander offered a manager's amendment to the AINS

The amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 1130, as amended, was agreed to by a voice vote.

S. 1130, Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote.

S.1608 the "Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act":

Chairman Alexander offered a manager's amendment to the AINS

The amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 1608, as amended, was agreed to by a voice vote.

S. 1608, the Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote.

S.2629 the "United States Public Health Service Modernization Act of 2019":

Chairman Alexander offered a manager's amendment to the AINS

The amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 2629, as amended, was agreed to by a voice vote.

S. 2629, the United States Public Health Service Modernization Act of 2019 was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote.

S.2740 the "Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act of 2019":

S.2740 the Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act of 2019 was reported favorably to the full Senate by a voice vote