

## House Passes Cures Bill With Mandatory NIH/FDA Funding

The House passed the 21st Century Cures Act 344-77, in the process shooting down an amendment that would have made the bill's funding hikes for FDA and the National Institutes of Health discretionary and would have stripped language that subjects the funding to appropriations policy riders.

A controversial amendment to make the bill's NIH and FDA funding hikes discretionary rather than mandatory was shot down, with 141 voting for the measure and 281 against. Energy and Commerce Chair Fred Upton (R-MI) and Ranking Democrat Frank Pallone (NJ) urged lawmakers to vote against the measure, while Rep. Scott Perry (R-PA) argued the bill is "placing the burden for paying for it on people not alive yet."

Also voted down was an amendment to strip a last-minute addition to the bill that applies policy riders in appropriations bill to the Cures bill's NIH and FDA funding hikes. The amendment -- filed by Democrats Barbara Lee (CA), Jan Schakowsky (IL) and Yvette Clarke (NY) -- was defeated 176 to 276. The Democratic sponsors expressed anger that the bill applies Hyde Amendment language barring the use of federal funds for abortions.

Five additional amendments were agreed to by voice vote:

- One submitted by Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA) that expresses the sense of Congress that recording unique device identifiers at the point-of-care

in electronic health record systems could significantly enhance the availability of medical device data for postmarket surveillance purposes.

- Rep. Louise Slaughter's (D-NY) amendment directing CDC to conduct a study to determine how additional Medicare payments for antimicrobials are affecting the development of drug resistance.
- An amendment filed by Reps. Todd Young (R-IN) and Andy Harris (R-MD) that gives NIH authority to incentivize health innovation by offering competitors the chance to win a prize for creating breakthrough research and technology.
- Rep. Joaquin Castro's (D-TX) amendment aimed at ensuring underrepresented individuals, such as women and minorities, are included in the Supporting Young Emerging Scientists Report.
- An amendment by Rep. Jackson Lee (D-TX) directing the HHS secretary to conduct outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Native American colleges and rural colleges to ensure that health professionals from underrepresented populations are aware of research opportunities under the Cures bill.