



## #StopRTT (Right to Try) Social Media Advocacy Action Toolkit

On Tuesday October 3, members of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee will hold a hearing on “Examining Patient Access to Investigational Drugs.” In this hearing, a dangerous act, [the Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act of 2017 \(H.R. 1020\)](#) will be debated (a similar bill, [The Right to Try Act of 2017](#), or S.204, already passed the Senate early this August).

Despite their catchy names, these acts offer only false hope: they won’t do anything to compel companies to make their experimental drugs and devices available pre-approval. Instead, they would allow companies to sell investigational drugs and devices to the public before they have demonstrated their safety and efficacy, or gone through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process.

**Join TAG and our partners and take action by tweeting at members of the House of Representatives Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health to urge that they withdraw their support and block this dangerous bill from advancing. Your Reps need to hear from you!**

**Use hashtag #StopRTT in your posts!**

**Timing: Tuesday, October 3 at 10:30 AM ET || 9:30 AM CT || 8:30 AM MT || 7:30 AM PT**

An infographic with a teal background and white text. The title is "IS THE FEDERAL RIGHT TO TRY ACT HARMFUL FOR PATIENTS?". Below the title, it states: "All terminally ill patients already have a right to try promising experimental drugs under FDA's Expanded Access Program. This access is usually free." It then says: "This bill would give patients more access to other experimental treatments but without the safeguards they have today." To the right, under the heading "Passing a Federal Right to Try Act would...", there are four red boxes with white icons and text: 1. A pill icon: "Make it easier for unethical companies or doctors to exploit desperate patients." 2. A dollar sign icon: "Allow companies to charge as much as they want for experimental drugs that may not work and could be fatal." 3. A skull icon: "Prevent patients and family members from suing if the treatment harms or even kills them." 4. A microscope icon: "Prevent doctors and scientists from evaluating the benefit or harm of drugs given to Right to Try Patients." At the bottom, it says "National Center for Health Research | center4research.org".

*Image credit: National Center for Health Research*

**Targets:**

<b>House Energy &amp; Commerce (E&amp;C) Health Subcommittee Members</b>					
<b>Republican</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Twitter handle</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Twitter handle</b>
Michael Burgess (Chair)	TX	@michaelcburgess	Gene Green (Ranking member)	TX	@RepGeneGreen
Brett Guthrie (Vice chair)	KY	@RepGuthrie	Eliot Engel	NY	@RepEliotEngel
Joe Barton	TX	@RepJoeBarton	Jan Schakowsky	IL	@JanSchakowsky
Fred Upton	MI	@RepFredUpton	G.K. Butterfield	NC	@GKButterfield
John Shimkus	IL	@RepShimkus	Doris Matsui	CA	@DorisMatsui
Tim Murphy	PA	@RepTimMurphy	Kathy Castor	FL	@USRepKCastor
Marsha Blackburn	TN	@marshablackburn	John Sarbanes	MD	@RepSarbanes
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	WA	@cathymcmorris	Ben Lujan	NM	@RepBenRayLujan
Leonard Lance	NJ	@RepLanceNJ7	Kurt Schrader	OR	@RepSchrader
Morgan Griffith	VA	@RepMGriffith	Joe Kennedy	MD	@RepJoeKennedy
Gus Bilirakis	FL	@RepGusBilirakis	Tony Cardenas	CA	@RepCardenas
Billy Long	MO	@USRepLong	Anna Eshoo	CA	@RepAnnaEshoo
Larry Bucshon	IN	@RepLarryBucshon	Diana DeGette	CO	@RepDiannaDeGette
Susan Brooks	IN	@SusanWBrooks	Frank Pallone	NJ	@FrankPallone
Markwayne Mullin	OK	@RepMullin			
Richard Hudson	NC	@RepRichHudson			
Chris Collins	NY	@RepChrisCollins			
Buddy Carter	GA	@RepBuddyCarter			
Greg Walden (ex officio)	OR	@RepGregWalden			

**Tweets w/links to resources on why Right to Try bills are harmful**

**Use “@\_\_\_\_\_” to insert a Representative’s twitter handle into your tweet**

DYK Right to Try makes it easier for unethical companies to exploit patients. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vl>

All terminally ill patients already have #RightToTry under FDA Expanded Access Program. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_

Right to try gives access to experimental drugs W/O safeguards. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_

DYK Right to Try allows companies to charge \$\$\$ for drugs that may not work or cause death. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vl>

In @US\_FDA we trust. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vl>

We urge you @\_\_\_\_\_ to reject and #StopRTT. <http://bit.ly/2xPTsuA>

Right to Try gives false hope for patients @\_\_\_\_\_ #StopRTT. <http://bit.ly/2xPTsuA>

DYK Right to Try gives no legal recourse for patients harmed by false drugs and cures #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vl>

.@US\_FDA is NOT a barrier for patients accessing drugs pre-approval. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2ySATWt>

DYK @US\_FDA approves 99.7% of thousands of apps for expanded access each year. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2ySATWt>

Let the @US\_FDA do its job and protect patients from false cures. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2wbiJwQ>

Get the facts @\_\_\_\_\_ : HR 1020 is BAD for patients' health. #StopRTT <http://bit.ly/2ySATWt>

Clinical trials and @US\_FDA exist to protect patients! #StopRTT now @\_\_\_\_\_

HR 1020 ONLY provides false hope @\_\_\_\_\_ #StopRTT <http://bit.ly/2wbiJwQ>

Prioritize patient safety over profits! #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vl>

.@US\_FDA is on the frontlines of protecting ALL patients. #StopRTT from weakening the FDA! @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vl>

HR 1020 could unleash ineffective and harmful drugs to the public. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_

HR 1020 bans @US\_FDA collecting impt info on experimental products. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2wbjwQ>

If enacted, HR 1020 can injure vulnerable patients. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vI>

Right to Try laws only help company profits ↑ and patient safety ↓. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_

As a doctor @michaelburgess, would you prescribe patients unproven drugs? #StopRTT

.@michaelburgess puts many patients at risk with potentially false drugs and cures. #StopRTT <http://bit.ly/2kMQ8vI>

Right to Try laws allow Big Pharma to exploit patients' hope. #StopRTT @RepShimkus @JanSchakowsky <http://trib.in/2xU9IMC>

Federal right to try undermines patient protection and drug testing. @GKButterfield @RepRichHudson #StopRTT <http://bit.ly/2xTuls7>

FDA holding experimental tx from patients is false. FDA authorized ↑ 99% of requests for expanded access. #StopRTT <http://bit.ly/2ySATWt>

W/ no risk analysis or evidence of drug efficacy required under HR 1020, patient vulnerability ↑ #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_

FDA isn't the problem Right to Try makes it out to be @RepChrisCollins @RepEliotEngel <http://bit.ly/2xOKLAI> #StopRTT

Truth: @US\_FDA rarely rejects apps for expanded access. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_

Drug companies could charge patients \$\$\$\$\$ to get access to an experimental drug. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2wuCe4t>

Right to try only stifles access, prioritizes profits and drug companies. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2wuCe4t>

Scapegoating @US\_FDA is false when 99% of expanded access requests are approved. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2ySATWt>

Expanded access @US\_FDA already works. Right to Try doesn't. #StopRTT @\_\_\_\_\_ <http://bit.ly/2ySATWt>

Images:

## Expanded Access Requests Often Granted







Source: FDA

IS THE FEDERAL  
**RIGHT TO TRY ACT**  
HARMFUL FOR PATIENTS?

All terminally ill patients **already have a right to try** promising experimental drugs under FDA's **Expanded Access Program**. This access is usually free.

This bill would give patients more access to other experimental treatments but **without the safeguards they have today**.

**Passing a Federal Right to Try Act would...**

-  Make it easier for unethical companies or doctors to exploit desperate patients.
-  Allow companies to charge as much as they want for experimental drugs that may not work and could be fatal.
-  Prevent patients and family members from suing if the treatment harms or even kills them.
-  Prevent doctors and scientists from evaluating the benefit or harm of drugs given to Right to Try Patients.

National Center for Health Research | [center4research.org](http://center4research.org)