BOB CASEY

FIGHTING *for* PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

Advancing Research for Chronic Pain Act

U.S. Senators Bob Casey, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Kaine, and Kevin Cramer

Chronic pain research lags behind need

Approximately 1 in 5 adults are living with chronic pain, and 7.4% of those individuals have pain that significantly impacts their ability to live and work. The prevalence of chronic pain and high-impact chronic pain increases with age, which is a growing concern as our population ages. Despite the prevalence of chronic pain, its socioeconomic burden, and the recognized need for improved data collection, there is insufficient progress in population level data beyond chronic pain prevalence and, within that, prevalence of high impact chronic pain.

Advancing Research for Chronic Pain Act

This bill directs the CDC to:

- utilize available research data to clarify the prevalence and characteristics of chronic pain;
- identify gaps in the available research data and collect de-identified population data to fill gaps;
- develop standard definitions and approaches for population research on chronic pain to efficiently promote greater comparability of data; and
- create a Chronic Pain Information Hub webpage to aggregate and summarize available data, maintain a summary of complete, ongoing, and planned research, and translate findings to recommendations for clinicians and scientists.

Additional background

Currently, the CDC does not have a centralized location for disseminating chronic pain information, and a significant portion of the materials related to chronic pain made publicly available by the CDC have been focused on the use of opioids (i.e., Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain), which does not capture the needs of this population. The CDC currently has many pain data sources available and multiple ongoing projects which could be more transparently disseminated to pain scientists and clinicians in order to drive further research into better ways to treat chronic pain.