

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4886

To provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2023

Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. BACON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. VALADAO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “ACES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON PREVALENCE**
2 **AND MORTALITY OF CANCER AMONG INDI-**
3 **VIDUALS WHO SERVED AS ACTIVE DUTY AIR-**
4 **CREW IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies
7 of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (in this section re-
8 ferred to as the “National Academies”), under which the
9 National Academies shall conduct a study on the preva-
10 lence and mortality of cancers among covered individuals.

11 (b) STUDY.—The study required under subsection (a)
12 shall—

13 (1) identify exposures associated with military
14 occupations of covered individuals, including relating
15 to chemicals, compounds, agents, and other phe-
16 nomena;

17 (2) review the literature to determine associa-
18 tions between exposures referred to in paragraph (1)
19 and the incidence or prevalence of overall cancer
20 morbidity, overall cancer mortality, and increased in-
21 cidence or prevalence of—

22 (A) brain cancer;

23 (B) colon and rectal cancers;

24 (C) kidney cancer;

25 (D) lung cancer;

26 (E) melanoma skin cancer;

1 (F) non-Hodgkin lymphoma;

2 (G) pancreatic cancer;

3 (H) prostate cancer;

4 (I) testicular cancer;

5 (J) thyroid cancer;

6 (K) urinary bladder cancer; and

7 (L) other cancers as determined appro-
8 priate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in
9 consultation with the National Academies; and
10 (3) determine, to the extent possible, the preva-
11 lence of and mortality from the cancers specified in
12 paragraph (2) among covered individuals by using
13 available sources of data, which may include—

14 (A) health care and other administrative
15 databases of the Department of Veterans Af-
16 fairs, the Department of Defense, and the indi-
17 vidual Services, respectively;

18 (B) the national death index maintained by
19 the National Center for Health Statistics of the
20 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
21 and

22 (C) the study conducted under section 750
23 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National
24 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021
25 (Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 3716).

1 (c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of the study required
2 under subsection (a), the National Academies shall submit
3 to the Secretary and to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
4 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
5 report containing the results of the study described in sub-
6 section (b).

7 (d) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
8 tion, the term “covered individual” means an individual
9 who served on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force,
10 or Marine Corps as an aircrew member of a fixed-wing
11 aircraft, including as a pilot, navigator, weapons systems
12 operator, aircraft system operator, or any other crew
13 member who regularly flew in a fixed-wing aircraft.

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