

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9532

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a comprehensive initiative for brain health, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a comprehensive initiative for brain health, 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 “Warfighter Brain
5 Health Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 735. BRAIN HEALTH INITIATIVE OF DEPARTMENT OF**
7 **DEFENSE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in con-
9 sultation with the Secretaries concerned, shall establish a
10 comprehensive initiative for brain health to be known as

1 the “Warfighter Brain Health Initiative” (in this section
2 referred to as the “Initiative”) for the purpose of unifying
3 efforts and programs across the Department of Defense
4 to improve the cognitive performance and brain health of
5 members of the Armed Forces.

6 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Initiative
7 shall be the following:

8 (1) To enhance, maintain, and restore the cog-
9 nitive performance of members of the Armed Forces
10 through education, training, prevention, protection,
11 monitoring, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and re-
12 habilitation, including through the following activi-
13 ties:

14 (A) The establishment of a program to
15 monitor cognitive brain health across the De-
16 partment of Defense, with the goal of detecting
17 any need for cognitive enhancement or restora-
18 tion resulting from potential brain exposures of
19 members of Armed Forces, to mitigate possible
20 evolution of injury or disease progression.

21 (B) The identification and dissemination of
22 thresholds for blast pressure safety and associ-
23 ated emerging scientific evidence.

1 (C) The modification of high-risk training
2 and operational activities to mitigate the nega-
3 tive effects of repetitive blast exposure.

4 (D) The identification of individuals who
5 perform high-risk training or occupational ac-
6 tivities, for purposes of increased monitoring of
7 the brain health of such individuals.

8 (E) The development and operational field-
9 ing of non-invasive, portable, point-of-care med-
10 ical devices, to inform the diagnosis and treat-
11 ment of traumatic brain injury.

12 (F) The establishment of a standardized
13 monitoring program that documents and ana-
14 lyzes blast exposures that may affect the brain
15 health of members of the Armed Forces.

16 (G) The consideration of the findings and
17 recommendations of the report of the National
18 Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medi-
19 cine titled “Traumatic Brain Injury: A Road-
20 map for Accelerating Progress” and published
21 in 2022 (relating to the acceleration of progress
22 in traumatic brain injury research and care), or
23 any successor report, in relation to the activities
24 of the Department relating to brain health, as
25 applicable.

1 (2) To harmonize and prioritize the efforts of
2 the Department of Defense into a single approach to
3 brain health.

4 (c) ANNUAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION DOCU-
5 MENTS.—In the budget justification materials submitted
6 to Congress in support of the Department of Defense
7 budget for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 (as sub-
8 mitted with the budget of the President under section
9 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), the Secretary
10 of Defense shall include a budget justification display that
11 includes all activities of the Department relating to the
12 Initiative.

13 (d) PILOT PROGRAM RELATING TO MONITORING OF
14 BLAST COVERAGE.—

15 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Director of the Defense
16 Health Agency may conduct, as part of the Initia-
17 tive, a pilot program under which the Director shall
18 monitor blast overpressure exposure through the use
19 of commercially available, off-the-shelf, wearable sen-
20 sors, and document and evaluate data collected as a
21 result of such monitoring.

22 (2) LOCATIONS.—Monitoring activities under a
23 pilot program conducted pursuant to paragraph (1)
24 shall be carried out in each training environment

1 that the Director determines poses a risk for blast
2 overpressure exposure.

3 (3) DOCUMENTATION AND SHARING OF
4 DATA.—If the Director conducts a pilot program
5 pursuant to paragraph (1), the Director shall—

6 (A) ensure that any data collected pursu-
7 ant to such pilot program that is related to the
8 health effects of the blast overpressure exposure
9 of a member of the Armed Forces who partici-
10 pated in the pilot program is documented and
11 maintained by the Secretary of Defense in an
12 electronic health record for the member; and

13 (B) to the extent practicable, and in ac-
14 cordance with applicable provisions of law relat-
15 ing to data privacy, make data collected pursu-
16 ant to such pilot program available to other
17 academic and medical researchers for the pur-
18 pose of informing future research and treat-
19 ment options.

20 (e) STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not
21 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
22 Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Commit-
23 tees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives
24 and the Senate a report setting forth a strategy and imple-

1 mentation plan of the Department of Defense to achieve
2 the objectives of the Initiative under subsection (b).

3 (f) ANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than January
4 31, 2024, and annually thereafter until January 31, 2027,
5 the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees
6 on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and
7 the Senate a report on the Initiative that includes the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) A description of the activities taken under
10 the Initiative and resources expended under the Ini-
11 tiative during the prior fiscal year.

12 (2) A summary of the progress made during the
13 prior fiscal year with respect to the objectives of the
14 Initiative under subsection (b).

15 (g) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-
16 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning
17 given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States
18 Code.

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