

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 738

To provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting dangerous gain-of-function research.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting dangerous gain-of-function research.

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 “Dangerous Viral Gain
5 of Function Research Moratorium Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS**
 2 **FOR INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH INSTI-**
 3 **TUTES CONDUCTING DANGEROUS GAIN-OF-**
 4 **FUNCTION RESEARCH.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH.—The term
 7 “gain-of-function research” means any research
 8 that—

9 (A) involves the genetic alteration of an or-
 10 ganism to change or enhance the organism’s bi-
 11 ological functions, which change or enhance-
 12 ment may include increased infectivity, trans-
 13 missibility, pathogenicity, or host range (which
 14 is the spectrum of hosts that an organism can
 15 infect); or

16 (B) may be reasonably anticipated to con-
 17 fer attributes to an organism, such that the or-
 18 ganism would have enhanced infectivity, patho-
 19 genicity, or transmissibility, or otherwise pose a
 20 threat to national security, public safety, or the
 21 health of humans, companion animals, or live-
 22 stock, poultry, seafood and aquaculture species,
 23 or game animals.

24 (2) ORGANISM.— The term “organism” means
 25 an influenza virus, a coronavirus (including a Middle
 26 Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus,

1 SARS-CoV-1, SARS-CoV-2, or SARS-like viruses),
2 or an agent or toxin on the Select Agents and Tox-
3 ins List of the Department of Health and Human
4 Services or the Department of Agriculture under
5 part 331 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations,
6 part 121 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, or
7 part 73 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, or
8 any synthetic construct of such virus, agent, or
9 toxin.

10 (b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
11 sion of law, no research grants supported by Federal funds
12 may be awarded to institutions of higher education, or
13 other research institutes, that are conducting gain-of-func-
14 tion research.

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