

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8141

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish an initiative to unify efforts and programs across the Department of Defense to improve the cognitive performance and brain health of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 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 an initiative to unify efforts and programs across the Department of Defense to improve the cognitive performance and brain health of members of 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 “Warrior Brain Health
5 Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. BRAIN HEALTH INITIATIVE OF DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **DEFENSE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in con-
4 sultation with the Secretaries concerned, shall establish a
5 comprehensive initiative for brain health to be known as
6 the “Warfighter Brain Health Initiative” (in this section
7 referred to as the “Initiative”) for the purpose of unifying
8 efforts and programs across the Department of Defense
9 to improve the cognitive performance and brain health of
10 members of the Armed Forces.

11 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Initiative
12 shall be the following:

13 (1) To enhance, maintain, and restore the cog-
14 nitive performance of members of the Armed Forces
15 through education, training, prevention, protection,
16 monitoring, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and re-
17 habilitation, including through the following activi-
18 ties:

19 (A) The establishment of a program to
20 monitor cognitive brain health across the De-
21 partment of Defense, beginning upon the acces-
22 sion of a member to the Armed Forces and re-
23 peated at regular intervals thereafter, with the
24 goal of detecting any need for cognitive en-
25 hancement or restoration resulting from poten-
26 tial brain exposures of the member, to mitigate

1 possible evolution of injury or disease progres-
2 sion.

3 (B) The identification and dissemination of
4 thresholds for blast pressure safety and associ-
5 ated emerging scientific evidence.

6 (C) The modification of high-risk training
7 and operational activities to mitigate the nega-
8 tive effects of repetitive blast exposure.

9 (D) The identification of individuals who
10 perform high-risk training or occupational ac-
11 tivities, for purposes of increased monitoring of
12 the brain health of such individuals.

13 (E) The development and operational field-
14 ing of non-invasive, portable, point-of-care med-
15 ical devices, to inform the diagnosis and treat-
16 ment of traumatic brain injury.

17 (F) The establishment of a standardized
18 monitoring program that documents and ana-
19 lyzes blast exposures that may affect the brain
20 health of members of the Armed Forces.

21 (G) The development of a resource that
22 would set forth specific criteria used in the
23 awarding of potential grants for research
24 projects relating to the direct correlation of en-

1 vironmental exposures and brain injuries to the
2 brain health of members of the Armed Forces.

3 (H) The incorporation of the findings and
4 recommendations of the report of the National
5 Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medi-
6 cine titled “Traumatic Brain Injury: A Road-
7 map for Accelerating Progress” and published
8 in 2022 (relating to the acceleration of progress
9 in traumatic brain injury research and care), or
10 any successor report, into activities of the De-
11 partment relating to brain health, as applicable.

12 (2) To harmonize and prioritize the efforts of
13 the Department of Defense into a single approach to
14 brain health, to produce more efficient and effective
15 results.

16 (c) STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not
17 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
18 Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congres-
19 sional defense committees a report setting forth a strategy
20 and implementation plan of the Department of Defense
21 to achieve the objectives of the Initiative under subsection
22 (b).

23 (d) ANNUAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION DOCU-
24 MENTS.—In the budget justification materials submitted
25 to Congress in support of the Department of Defense

1 budget for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 (as sub-
2 mitted with the budget of the President under section
3 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), the Secretary
4 of Defense shall include a budget justification display that
5 includes all activities of the Department relating to the
6 Initiative.

7 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than January 31,
8 2024, and annually thereafter until January 31, 2030, the
9 Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional de-
10 fense committees a report on the Initiative that includes
11 the following:

12 (1) A description of the activities taken under
13 the Initiative and resources expended under the Ini-
14 tiative during the prior fiscal year.

15 (2) A summary of the progress made during the
16 prior fiscal year with respect to the objectives of the
17 Initiative under subsection (b).

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

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