

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4805

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the long-term physiological and psychological effects of military aviation veterans who served as aviators in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2025

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Ms. GOODLANDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the long-term physiological and psychological effects of military aviation veterans who served as aviators 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 “Warrior Impact from
5 Neurological and G-Force Stress Act” or the “WINGS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF MILITARY**
2 **FLIGHT OPERATIONS ON BRAIN HEALTH AND**
3 **MENTAL HEALTH.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
5 conduct a comprehensive, longitudinal study to assess the
6 long-term physiological and psychological effects of mili-
7 tary aviation, including with respect to high-performance
8 flight and G-force exposure, on military aviators.

9 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a)
10 shall examine, at a minimum—

11 (1) the relationship between cumulative flight
12 hours and exposure to G-forces and incidents of
13 traumatic brain injury, sub-concussive trauma, or
14 cognitive impairment;

15 (2) long-term mental health outcomes, including
16 with respect to incidence of depression, anxiety dis-
17 orders, and post-traumatic stress disorder, in mili-
18 tary aviators compared to other members of the
19 Armed Forces;

20 (3) the correlation between aviation-related
21 physiological stress and suicide risk among aviators;

22 (4) the prevalence of neurodegenerative condi-
23 tions (including chronic traumatic encephalopathy,
24 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Parkinson's dis-
25 ease) in current and former military aviators;

1 (5) the effect of helmet design, oxygen systems,
2 flight suit pressurization, and other cockpit environ-
3 mental factors on neurocognitive health;

4 (6) current screening and diagnostic procedures
5 used to detect early signs of neurological injury or
6 psychological distress in military aviators; and

7 (7) recommended improvements in the moni-
8 toring, prevention, and treatment of aviation-related
9 brain trauma and mental health challenges.

10 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
11 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

12 (1) the Secretary of Defense;

13 (2) the Surgeons General of the military de-
14 partments;

15 (3) the Director of the Defense Health Agency;
16 and

17 (4) relevant academic institutions and federally
18 funded research and development centers with exper-
19 tise in aviation medicine, neuroscience, and psychi-
20 atry.

21 (d) PILOT HEALTH REGISTRY.—The Secretary of
22 Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain a centralized
23 Military Aviator Neurohealth Registry that includes—

1 (1) anonymized health data of military aviators
2 voluntarily participating in the study under sub-
3 section (a);

4 (2) flight exposure metrics, including cumu-
5 lative hours and G-force profiles;

6 (3) relevant health outcomes tracked over time;
7 and

8 (4) a mechanism for longitudinal follow-up with
9 the military aviators.

10 (e) REPORTS.—

11 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary shall submit to Congress an interim report on
14 the study under subsection (a), including any pre-
15 liminary findings and recommendations.

16 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than three years
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary shall submit to Congress report on the study
19 under subsection (a), including findings and rec-
20 ommendations.

21 (f) MILITARY AVIATOR DEFINED.—In this section,
22 the term “military aviator” means a veteran who, as a
23 member of the Armed Forces, including a commissioned
24 officer or a warrant officer—

1 (1) had been designated as a pilot, naval avi-
2 ator, or aircrew member by the Secretary of the
3 military department concerned;

4 (2) operated, or was regularly assigned as a
5 flight crew member aboard, high-performance,
6 crewed, fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft designed
7 for tactical, training, or reconnaissance missions, in-
8 cluding—

9 (A) fighter aircraft (such as the F-35, F/
10 A-18, F-22, and F-16 aircraft);

11 (B) attack aircraft (such as the A-10 and
12 AH-64 aircraft);

13 (C) trainer jets (such as the T-7, T-38,
14 and T-45 aircraft); and

15 (D) tiltrotor or high-speed rotary aircraft
16 (such as the V-22 aircraft);

17 (3) was subject to sustained or repeated G-
18 forces during the routine execution of flight duties;
19 and

20 (4) served in a role that may have included air-
21 craft control, weapons employment, navigation, re-
22 connaissance, or mission-specific operations requir-
23 ing aircrew qualification and exposure to flight-re-
24 lated physiological stressors.

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