

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6823

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to facilitate the development of certain traumatic brain injury diagnostics for members of the Armed Forces.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. MCBRIDE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to facilitate the development of certain traumatic brain injury diagnostics for members of the Armed Forces.

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. PILOT PROGRAM TO FACILITATE DEVELOP-**
4 **MENT OF CERTAIN TRAUMATIC BRAIN IN-**
5 **JURY DIAGNOSTICS FOR MEMBERS OF THE**
6 **ARMED FORCES.**

7 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of De-

1 fense, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense
2 for Health Affairs, shall establish a pilot program to—

3 (1) assess the feasibility of providing support to
4 eligible entities engaged in the research, develop-
5 ment, test, evaluation, or production of covered diag-
6 nostic technologies that may be procured by the Sec-
7 retary and used in the diagnosis of traumatic brain
8 injuries among members of the Armed Forces in
9 connection with operational deployments, including
10 in combat zones;

11 (2) assess covered diagnostic technologies to de-
12 termine—

13 (A) whether such technologies are capable
14 of distinguishing mild traumatic brain injury
15 from moderate or severe traumatic brain injury;

16 (B) how such technologies may be used
17 with other diagnostics or diagnostic aids for
18 traumatic brain injury (including neuroimaging
19 biomarkers used in computed tomography, mag-
20 netic resonance imaging or molecular imaging,
21 blood-based biomarkers, electrophysiological bio-
22 markers, oculomotor tracking systems, and en-
23 vironmental sensors);

24 (C) how such technologies may be inte-
25 grated with the detection of other indicators of

1 physiological deficit, to enhance the health, sur-
2 vival, and long-term prognosis of members of
3 the Armed Forces;

4 (D) how such technologies may improve
5 military readiness through the improved brain
6 health of members of the Armed Forces; and

7 (E) the extent to which such technologies
8 may address concerns regarding the growing
9 medical burden of traumatic brain injury by
10 more accurately assessing and quantifying acute
11 exposure; and

12 (3) facilitate the research, development, test,
13 evaluation, and production of safe and effective cov-
14 ered diagnostic technologies, including by facilitating
15 the research and development of new or updated
16 manufacturing processes for such technologies and
17 the transitioning of such technologies from the
18 prototyping phase to the production phase.

19 (b) DESIGNATION.—The pilot program established
20 under subsection (a) shall be known as the “Warfighter
21 Traumatic Brain Injury Diagnostics Project” (in this sec-
22 tion referred to as the “pilot program”).

23 (c) ACTIVITIES.—The pilot program shall include—

1 (1) the conduct of research studies to make the
2 assessments specified in subsection (a), including
3 studies conducted by, or in consultation with—

4 (A) trauma, primary care, and traumatic
5 brain injury experts of the Department of De-
6 fense;

7 (B) emergency medical technicians of the
8 Department;

9 (C) members of the Armed Forces diag-
10 nosed with traumatic brain injuries; and

11 (D) personnel of the Department who are
12 experts in the covered diagnostic technologies
13 assessed under such studies; and

14 (2) such activities as the Secretary determines
15 may be necessary to incentivize participation in such
16 studies by military medical treatment facilities, units
17 of the United States Special Operations Command,
18 civilian level one trauma centers, and such other en-
19 tities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

20 (d) GRANTS.—

21 (1) AWARD OF GRANTS.—In carrying out the
22 pilot program, the Secretary of Defense may award
23 a grant to an eligible entity engaged in the research,
24 development, test, evaluation, or production of cov-
25 ered diagnostics, consistent with subsection (a)(3).

(2) PRIORITY OF AWARDS.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to an eligible entity that the Secretary determines meets one or more of the following criteria:

(A) The eligible entity has a demonstrated history of researching, developing, testing, evaluating, or producing a covered diagnostic technology.

(B) The eligible entity has a demonstrated history of researching, developing, testing, evaluating, or producing a covered diagnostic technology or other related capability in the national technology and industrial base (as such term is defined in section 4801 of title 10, United States Code).

(C) The covered diagnostic technology researched, developed, tested, evaluated, or produced by such eligible entity provides modularity to support diverse applications.

(3) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—An eligible entity awarded a grant under paragraph (1) may only use such grant amounts to carry out one or more of the following activities:

(A) Conducting research, development, testing, or evaluation activities to validate a

covered diagnostic technology (including through experimentation, prototyping, or adapting such technology), to determine or improve the potential operational use to the Department of Defense of such technology, or to integrate such technology with other technologies and systems, including with respect to new or existing pathways of care.

(B) Addressing manufacturing or other production challenges relating to a covered diagnostic technology.

(C) Providing commercially available covered diagnostic technologies to any Secretary of a military department, or commander of a combatant command, to support use assessments or other testing by members of the Armed Forces.

(D) Building or strengthening relationships with nontraditional defense contractors in the technology industry that may be capable of providing unused or underused solutions to specific operational challenges of the Department relating to traumatic brain injury diagnostics technology.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the pilot program terminates under subsection

1 (g), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congres-
2 sional defense committees a report on the results of the
3 pilot program. Such report shall include—

4 (1) a summary of the results of the pilot pro-
5 gram;

6 (2) a determination of the Secretary regarding
7 whether to procure and adopt covered diagnostic
8 technologies in addition to tools already used by
9 medical providers of the Department of Defense to
10 screen for traumatic brain injury at the point of in-
11 jury; and

12 (3) any recommendations of the Secretary re-
13 garding necessary steps to promote the use of cov-
14 ered diagnostic technologies that meet the needs of
15 the Armed Forces, including any legislative solutions
16 that may be necessary.

17 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to the Secretary
19 of Defense for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to
20 carry out this section.

21 (g) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the
22 program shall terminate on September 30, 2029.

23 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “congressional defense commit-
2 tees” has the meaning given that term in section
3 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.

4 (2) The term “covered diagnostic technology”
5 means a device that aids in the diagnosis of trau-
6 matic brain injury, including by assisting clinicians
7 in making such a diagnosis.

8 (3) The term “civilian level one trauma center”
9 has the meaning given that term in section 708 of
10 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
11 Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 10 U.S.C. 1071
12 note).

13 (4) The term “eligible entity” means—

14 (A) any entity organized under the laws of
15 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
16 United States; or

17 (B) any entity that is owned by an entity
18 described in subparagraph (A).

19 (5) The term “nontraditional defense con-
20 tractor” has the meaning given that term in section
21 3014 of title 10, United States Code.

○