

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4777

To establish the Blast Overpressure Task Force of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2026

Mr. BANKS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Blast Overpressure Task Force of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Blast Overpressure
5 Research and Mitigation Task Force Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BLAST OVERPRESSURE**
7 **TASK FORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
8 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

1 Veterans Affairs shall, through the Department of Vet-
2 erans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive
3 Committee under section 320 of title 38, United States
4 Code—

5 (1) establish the Blast Overpressure Task
6 Force of the Department of Veterans Affairs (in this
7 section referred to as the “Task Force”); and

8 (2) appoint the members of the Task Force.

9 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—Each member of the Task Force
10 appointed under subsection (a)(2) shall be a member of
11 the Health Executive Committee under section 320(b)(2)
12 of title 38, United States Code, who, at the time of ap-
13 pointment, is involved in research regarding the mitigation
14 and treatment of blast overpressure or blast exposure.

15 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force are the
16 following:

17 (1) To improve how the Secretary of Veterans
18 Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
19 fense, provides health care and other benefits to vet-
20 erans or members of the Armed Forces diagnosed
21 with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress
22 disorder, or other symptoms, from blast overpressure
23 or blast exposure.

1 (2) To align research agendas and acquisition
2 strategies of the Department of Veterans Affairs re-
3 garding such health care.

4 (3) To establish physiological and cognitive per-
5 formance baselines for such veterans and members.

6 (4) To prioritize translational research regard-
7 ing such veterans and members, including research
8 regarding—

9 (A) sleep therapy;

10 (B) blast-related gut health;

11 (C) mobile diagnostics;

12 (D) vestibular dysfunction and balance im-
13 pairment;

14 (E) autonomic nervous system
15 dysregulation;

16 (F) cumulative mild traumatic brain in-
17 jury;

18 (G) neuroinflammation and glial activation;

19 and

20 (H) any other issue determined appro-
21 priate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

22 (5) To monitor sensory decline (including with
23 respect to vision, hearing, and vestibular function)
24 and stress-related impairments among such veterans
25 and members.

1 (6) To support continuity of such health care
 2 by integrating mobile and longitudinal diagnostic
 3 tools.

4 (d) REPORTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
 6 after the establishment of the Task Force under
 7 subsection (a), and not less frequently than annually
 8 thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the Com-
 9 mittee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on
 10 Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on
 11 Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Armed
 12 Services of the House of Representatives a report on
 13 the activities of the Task Force.

14 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph
 15 (1) shall include the following:

16 (A) Details of research initiatives, coordi-
 17 nation outcomes, and clinical advancements of
 18 the Task Force.

19 (B) Recommendations of the Task Force
 20 regarding—

21 (i) how claims processors of the De-
 22 partment of Veterans Affairs should evalu-
 23 ate evidence that links conditions re-
 24 searched by the Task Force to active mili-
 25 tary, naval, air, or space service (as de-

1 fined in section 101 of title 38, United
2 States Code); and

3 (ii) best practices regarding the eval-
4 uation of neurological injuries in examina-
5 tions for benefits under chapter 11 or 15
6 of title 38, United States Code.

7 (e) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on
8 September 30, 2029.

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