

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2543

To make the Department of Defense anthrax vaccination immunization program voluntary for all members of the Armed Forces.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 1999

Mr. JONES of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To make the Department of Defense anthrax vaccination immunization program voluntary for all 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “American Military
5 Health Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) All branches of the Armed Forces are faced
9 with severe challenges in recruiting and retaining
10 quality military personnel.

1 (2) Time and again military personnel are
2 asked to place their lives on the line and to ulti-
3 mately sacrifice themselves and their families in de-
4 fense of the United States.

5 (3) The Department of Defense has initiated an
6 anthrax vaccination program, which a rapidly grow-
7 ing number of military personnel believe may jeop-
8 ardize their long-term health and safety as well as
9 that of their families.

10 (4) The lack of a single, conclusive independent
11 study regarding the long-term health effects of the
12 anthrax vaccine on humans has created additional
13 concerns among military personnel.

14 (5) Despite assurances by the Secretary of De-
15 fense of minimal adverse reactions to the anthrax
16 vaccine, the standards which the Secretary uses to
17 determine adverse reactions are insufficient to sup-
18 port such claims.

19 (6) As a result of the lack of conclusive data on
20 the long-term effects of the anthrax vaccine, many
21 military personnel are being forced to make deci-
22 sions between the safety and security of their fami-
23 lies and their dedication and commitment to serving
24 the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO MAKE THE DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
2 **FENSE ANTHRAX VACCINATION IMMUNIZA-**
3 **TION PROGRAM VOLUNTARY FOR ALL MEM-**
4 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

5 The Secretary of Defense shall require that the an-
6 thrax vaccination immunization program be voluntary for
7 all members of the Armed Forces until—

8 (1) the Food and Drug Administration has ap-
9 proved a new anthrax vaccine for humans; or

10 (2) the Food and Drug Administration has ap-
11 proved a new, reduced course of shots for the an-
12 thrax vaccine for humans.

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