

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6187

To establish a research program under the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense to discover a cure for HIV/AIDS.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2012

Mr. HIMES (for himself and Ms. LEE of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a research program under the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense to discover a cure for HIV/AIDS.

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 “Cure for AIDS Act
5 of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS; FINDINGS.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that—

4 (1) finding a cure is essential to ending the
5 AIDS epidemic in the United States and globally;

6 (2) AIDS treatment has saved millions of lives
7 and also makes it much less likely that HIV infec-
8 tion will be passed to a partner;

9 (3) access to AIDS treatment in the United
10 States and globally needs to continue to be expanded
11 but AIDS treatment is not a cure and not the ulti-
12 mate solution for the tens of millions of people living
13 with HIV/AIDS;

14 (4) the National Institutes of Health is the
15 leading health research organization in the world
16 and has dedicated millions of dollars to AIDS cure
17 research;

18 (5) to accelerate AIDS cure research and prod-
19 uct development, it is becoming increasingly impor-
20 tant to invest in areas that can complement the es-
21 sential role of the National Institutes of Health; and

22 (6) a cure will save hundreds of millions of dol-
23 lars in spending and have a powerful positive eco-
24 nomic impact globally.

25 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) It is estimated that in 2010 roughly
2 34,000,000 people were living with HIV/AIDS
3 worldwide.

4 (2) In the United States, 1,200,000 Americans
5 are estimated to be infected with the virus.

6 (3) Every 9.5 minutes, a citizen of the United
7 States becomes infected with HIV. Roughly
8 2,700,000 individuals, including 390,000 children,
9 became newly infected with HIV in 2010 alone.

10 (4) In fiscal year 2012, the Federal Govern-
11 ment spent \$27,700,000,000 on HIV/AIDS, the
12 largest component being services and treatment for
13 people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States at
14 a cost of \$15,600,000,000. The average lifetime cost
15 of HIV treatment is estimated to be \$367,134 per
16 person.

17 (5) In the last two years, discoveries have led
18 to growing optimism in the scientific community
19 that a cure for AIDS can be found. The eradication
20 of HIV from the body of one individual in Germany
21 has led many scientific leaders to believe that curing
22 AIDS is now possible. Leading researchers believe
23 we are now at the cutting edge of scientific discovery
24 for an AIDS cure with a range of novel approaches
25 being explored, including stem cells, gene therapy,

1 medications, and immune response modifications,
2 such as therapeutic vaccines.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF HIV/AIDS CONGRESSIONALLY**
4 **DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense,
7 acting through the Congressionally Directed Medical
8 Research Program, shall establish and support an
9 accelerated research program dedicated to the dis-
10 covery of a cure for HIV/AIDS.

11 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall
12 carry out the research program established under
13 paragraph (1) in collaboration with—

14 (A) the Director of the National Institutes
15 of Health;

16 (B) the Director of the National Institute
17 of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and

18 (C) any head of a Federal agency that the
19 Secretary determines appropriate.

20 (b) SCOPE.—To provide the basis for developing a
21 cure for HIV/AIDS, the Secretary shall ensure that re-
22 search conducted under subsection (a)(1) is highly tar-
23 geted to address the following scientific questions and pri-
24 orities:

1 (1) How HIV persists despite antiretroviral
2 therapy.

3 (2) Where HIV persists beyond the reach of
4 antiretroviral therapy.

5 (3) Whether ongoing attempts of the immune
6 system to clear the infection actually hinders the
7 ability of the medical community to cure infected in-
8 dividuals.

9 (4) Why the immune system reduces but does
10 not eliminate levels of the virus.

11 (5) How to measure ultra-low levels of the virus
12 in the body of an infected individual.

13 (6) Identifying and testing interventions, such
14 as drugs, that may eliminate the virus from infected
15 individuals.

16 (7) Identifying and testing interventions, such
17 as vaccines, that may help an infected individual
18 permanently control the virus without antiretroviral
19 therapy.

20 (c) ASSISTANCE BY NONPROFIT ENTITIES.—

21 (1) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the re-
22 search program established under subsection (a)(1),
23 the Secretary shall coordinate with at least one eligi-
24 ble nonprofit entity—

1 (A) whose primary mission is ending the
2 AIDS epidemic through innovative research;
3 and

4 (B) that has experience carrying out pro-
5 grams dedicated to AIDS cure research.

6 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary shall
7 ensure that the responsibilities of a nonprofit entity
8 selected under paragraph (1) include partnering with
9 the Secretary to establish research priorities for
10 peer-reviewed funded research pursuant to sub-
11 section (b).

12 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—In each annual report on
13 the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program
14 that the Secretary submits to Congress, the Secretary
15 shall include information on the progress of the research
16 program established under subsection (a)(1).

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017.

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