

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1550

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of severe combat injuries.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 24), 2013

Mr. WYDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of severe combat injuries.

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 “Battlefield Excellence
5 through Superior Training Practices Act” or “BEST
6 Practices Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Department of Defense has made im-
2 pressive strides in the development and use of meth-
3 ods of medical training and troop protection, such as
4 the use of tourniquets and improvements in body
5 armor, that have led to decreased battlefield fatali-
6 ties.

7 (2) The Department of Defense uses more than
8 6,000 live animals each year to train physicians,
9 medics, corpsmen, and other personnel methods of
10 responding to severe battlefield injuries.

11 (3) The civilian sector has almost exclusively
12 phased in the use of superior human-based training
13 methods for numerous medical procedures currently
14 taught in military courses using animals.

15 (4) Human-based medical training methods
16 such as simulators replicate human anatomy and
17 can allow for repetitive practice and data collection.

18 (5) According to scientific, peer-reviewed lit-
19 erature, medical simulation increases patient safety
20 and decreases errors by healthcare providers.

21 (6) The Army Research, Development and En-
22 gineering Command and other entities of the De-
23 partment of Defense have made impressive strides in
24 the development of methods for the replacement of
25 live animal-based training.

1 (7) According to the report by the Department
2 of Defense titled “Final Report on the use of Live
3 Animals in Medical Education and Training Joint
4 Analysis Team” published on July 12, 2009—

5 (A) validated, high-fidelity simulators will
6 be available for nearly every high-volume or
7 high-value battlefield medical procedure by the
8 end of 2011, and many were available as of
9 2009; and

10 (B) validated, high-fidelity simulators will
11 be available to teach all other procedures to re-
12 spond to common battlefield injuries by 2014.

13 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO USE HUMAN-BASED METHODS**
14 **FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL TRAINING.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 101 of title 10, United
16 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing new section:

18 **“§ 2017. Requirement to use human-based methods**
19 **for certain medical training**

20 “(a) COMBAT TRAUMA INJURIES.—(1) Not later
21 than October 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall de-
22 velop, test, and validate human-based training methods for
23 the purpose of training members of the armed forces in
24 the treatment of combat trauma injuries with the goal of
25 replacing live animal-based training methods.

1 “(2) Not later than October 1, 2018, the Secretary—

2 “(A) shall only use human-based training meth-
3 ods for the purpose of training members of the
4 armed forces in the treatment of combat trauma in-
5 juries; and

6 “(B) may not use animals for such purpose.

7 “(b) EXCEPTION FOR PARTICULAR COMMANDS AND
8 TRAINING METHODS.—(1) The Secretary may exempt a
9 particular command, particular training method, or both,
10 from the requirement for human-based training methods
11 under subsection (a)(2) if the Secretary determines that
12 human-based training methods will not provide an educa-
13 tionally equivalent or superior substitute for live animal-
14 based training methods for such command or training
15 method, as the case may be.

16 “(2) Any exemption under this subsection shall be for
17 such period, not more than one year, as the Secretary shall
18 specify in granting the exemption. Any exemption may be
19 renewed (subject to the preceding sentence).

20 “(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) Not later than October
21 1, 2014, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall sub-
22 mit to the congressional defense committees a report on
23 the development and implementation of human-based
24 training methods and replacement of live-animal based
25 training methods for the purpose of training members of

1 the armed forces in the treatment of combat trauma inju-
 2 ries under this section.

3 “(2) Each report under this subsection on or after
 4 October 1, 2018, shall include a description of any exemp-
 5 tion under subsection (b) that is in force as the time of
 6 such report, and a current justification for such exemp-
 7 tion.

8 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) The term ‘combat trauma injuries’ means
 10 severe injuries likely to occur during combat, includ-
 11 ing—

12 “(A) hemorrhage;

13 “(B) tension pneumothorax;

14 “(C) amputation resulting from blast in-
 15 jury;

16 “(D) compromises to the airway; and

17 “(E) other injuries.

18 “(2) The term ‘human-based training methods’
 19 means, with respect to training individuals in med-
 20 ical treatment, the use of systems and devices that
 21 do not use animals, including—

22 “(A) simulators;

23 “(B) partial task trainers;

24 “(C) moulage;

25 “(D) simulated combat environments;

1 “(E) human cadavers; and

2 “(F) rotations in civilian and military trau-
3 ma centers.

4 “(3) The term ‘partial task trainers’ means
5 training aids that allow individuals to learn or prac-
6 tice specific medical procedures.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
8 at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title is amended
9 by adding at the end the following new item:

 “2017. Requirement to use human-based methods for certain medical training.”.

