

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5460

To modify the Precision Medicine for Veterans Initiative of the Department
of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2024

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To modify the Precision Medicine for Veterans Initiative
of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Precision Brain Health
5 Research Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF PRECISION MEDICINE FOR VET-**
7 **ERANS INITIATIVE.**

8 Section 305 of the Commander John Scott Hannon
9 Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019

1 (Public Law 116–171; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amend-
2 ed—

3 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “and such
4 other mental health conditions” and inserting “re-
5 petitive low-level blast exposure, dementia, and such
6 other brain and mental health conditions”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 sections:

9 “(f) REPETITIVE LOW-LEVEL BLAST EXPOSURE RE-
10 SEARCH.—In carrying out the initiative under subsection
11 (a), the Secretary shall conduct the following research:

12 “(1) A big-data assessment of the clinical and
13 non-clinical interventions that are illustrating posi-
14 tive outcomes for patients within the health system
15 of the Veterans Health Administration with likely
16 low-level repetitive blast injuries, including a cat-
17 egorization of military occupational specialties
18 known to experience higher levels of low-level repet-
19 itive blast injuries.

20 “(2) Not fewer than two large-scale implemen-
21 tation studies of research-proven interventions with-
22 in such health system for patients with likely low-
23 level repetitive blast injuries, including a categoriza-
24 tion of military occupational specialties known to ex-

1 perience higher levels of low-level repetitive blast in-
2 juries.

3 “(3) A translational research study on the use
4 of growth hormone replacement therapy on the im-
5 provement of cognitive function, quality of life, brain
6 structure, and other negative symptoms on patients
7 within such health system with likely low-level repet-
8 itive blast injuries.

9 “(4) Not fewer than four large-scale quality im-
10 provement studies on improving the diagnosis and
11 care of veteran patients with likely low-level repet-
12 itive blast injuries.

13 “(g) ASSISTANCE AND REPORT BY NATIONAL ACAD-
14 EMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE.—
15 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment
16 of the Precision Brain Health Research Act of 2024, the
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into a
18 contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engi-
19 neering, and Medicine under which the National Acad-
20 emies shall—

21 “(1) work in tandem with the initiative under
22 subsection (a) on validation of brain and mental
23 health biomarkers among veterans; and

24 “(2) not less frequently than once every two
25 years, submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

1 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
2 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the
3 work completed under paragraph (1).

4 “(h) ASSESSMENT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
6 duct an assessment of all translational research
7 studies in progress and planned under the initiative
8 under subsection (a), including research under sub-
9 section (f).

10 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after
11 completion of the assessment conducted under para-
12 graph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
13 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
14 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
15 Representatives a report on the assessment.

16 “(i) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once every
17 two years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit
18 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
19 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives a report on the initiative under subsection (a).

21 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Vet-
23 erans Affairs \$5,000,000 to carry out the initiative under

1 subsection (a) for each of fiscal years 2025 through
2 2034.”.

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