

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4494

To prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment
in biomedical research.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2026

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. VAN
HOLLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Appropriations

A BILL

To prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national
investment in biomedical research.

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 Cures Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. APPROPRIATIONS FOR INNOVATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby authorized to be
7 appropriated, and appropriated, out of any monies in the
8 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following:

(1) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—For the National Institutes of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services—

(A) for fiscal year 2027, \$52,467,132,000;

(B) for fiscal year 2028, \$56,507,101,164;

(C) for fiscal year 2029, \$60,858,147,954;

(D) for fiscal year 2030, \$65,544,225,346;

(E) for fiscal year 2031, \$70,591,130,698;

(F) for fiscal year 2032, \$76,026,647,762;

(G) for fiscal year 2033, \$81,880,699,640;

(H) for fiscal year 2034, \$88,185,513,512;

(I) for fiscal year 2035, \$94,975,798,052;

(J) for fiscal year 2036,
\$102,288,934,502; and

(K) for fiscal year 2037 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.—For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the Department of Health and Human Services—

- 1 (A) for fiscal year 2027,\$ 9,911,621,307;
- 2 (B) for fiscal year 2028, \$10,674,816,148;
- 3 (C) for fiscal year 2029, \$11,496,776,991;
- 4 (D) for fiscal year 2030, \$12,382,028,819;
- 5 (E) for fiscal year 2031, \$13,335,445,038;
- 6 (F) for fiscal year 2032, \$14,362,274,306;
- 7 (G) for fiscal year 2033, \$15,468,169,428;
- 8 (H) for fiscal year 2034, \$16,659,218,474;
- 9 (I) for fiscal year 2035, \$17,941,978,296;
- 10 (J) for fiscal year 2036, \$19,323,510,625;

11 and

12 (K) for fiscal year 2037 and each fiscal
 13 year thereafter, the amount appropriated under
 14 this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, in-
 15 creased by the percentage increase (if any),
 16 during the previous fiscal year, in the Con-
 17 sumer Price Index for all urban consumers pub-
 18 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

19 (3) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND
 20 EVALUATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
 21 DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—For the research, de-
 22 velopment, test, and evaluation program of the De-
 23 partment of Defense health program—

- 24 (A) for fiscal year 2027, \$2,939,358,093;
- 25 (B) for fiscal year 2028, \$3,165,688,666;

- 1 (C) for fiscal year 2029, \$3,409,451,694;
- 2 (D) for fiscal year 2030, \$3,671,979,474;
- 3 (E) for fiscal year 2031, \$3,954,721,894;
- 4 (F) for fiscal year 2032, \$4,259,235,480;
- 5 (G) for fiscal year 2033, \$4,587,196,612;
- 6 (H) for fiscal year 2034, \$4,940,412,751;
- 7 (I) for fiscal year 2035, \$5,320,824,534;
- 8 (J) for fiscal year 2036, \$5,730,508,023;

9 and

10 (K) for fiscal year 2037 and each fiscal
 11 year thereafter, the amount appropriated under
 12 this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, in-
 13 creased by the percentage increase (if any),
 14 during the previous fiscal year, in the Con-
 15 sumer Price Index for all urban consumers pub-
 16 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

17 (4) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH
 18 PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
 19 FAIRS.—For the medical and prosthetics research
 20 program of the Department of Veterans Affairs—

- 21 (A) for fiscal year 2027, \$1,071,765,000;
- 22 (B) for fiscal year 2028, \$1,096,132,905;
- 23 (C) for fiscal year 2029, \$1,180,535,138;
- 24 (D) for fiscal year 2030, \$1,271,436,344;
- 25 (E) for fiscal year 2031, \$1,369,336,942;

1 (F) for fiscal year 2032, \$1,474,775,887;
 2 (G) for fiscal year 2033, \$1,588,333,630;
 3 (H) for fiscal year 2034, \$1,710,636,320;
 4 (I) for fiscal year 2035, \$1,842,355,321;
 5 (J) for fiscal year 2036, \$1,984,218,681;

6 and

7 (K) for fiscal year 2037 and each fiscal
 8 year thereafter, the amount appropriated under
 9 this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, in-
 10 creased by the percentage increase (if any),
 11 during the previous fiscal year, in the Con-
 12 sumer Price Index for all urban consumers pub-
 13 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

14 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under
 15 subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

16 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PRE-
 18 VENTION.—The term “Centers for Disease Control
 19 and Prevention” means the appropriations accounts
 20 that support the various institutes, offices, and cen-
 21 ters that make up the Centers for Disease Control
 22 and Prevention.

23 (2) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND
 24 EVALUATION PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
 25 DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term “research,

development, test, and evaluation program of the Department of Defense health program” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the research, development, test, and evaluation program of the Department of Defense health program.

(3) MEDICAL AND PROSTHETICS RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The term “medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—The term “National Institutes of Health” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund

1 and Other Funds (16–0327–0–1–600).” the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “Appropriations under the American
4 Cures Act.”.

5 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by
6 this section shall apply to any sequestration order
7 issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency
8 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.)
9 on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (e) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

11 (1) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The
12 budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered
13 on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to
14 section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of
15 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

16 (2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budg-
17 etary effects of this section shall not be entered on
18 any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of
19 section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

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