

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3717

To provide for the establishment of a grant program to support United States-Israel cooperation for neuroscience-related research and related technological innovation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2015

Mr. FATTAH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a grant program to support United States-Israel cooperation for neuroscience-related research and related technological innovation, and for other purposes.

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 “U.S.–Israel Global
5 Neuroscience Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) It is in the highest national security inter-
2 ests of the United States to develop neuroscience-re-
3 lated research and neurotechnology.

4 (2) The State of Israel is a steadfast ally of the
5 United States.

6 (3) The four existing bilateral research and de-
7 velopment (in this Act referred to as “R&D”) foun-
8 dations are successful tools for implementation of di-
9 verse programmatic R&D cooperation and include—

10 (A) the United States-Israel Binational In-
11 dustrial Research and Development Founda-
12 tion;

13 (B) the United States-Israel Binational
14 Science Foundation;

15 (C) the United States-Israel Binational
16 Agricultural Research and Development Foun-
17 dation; and

18 (D) the United States-Israel Science &
19 Technology Foundation.

20 (4) Given this proven success, it is in the eco-
21 nomic interest of the United States to develop closer
22 research, high-technology and innovation ties with
23 Israel in strategic areas of mutual interest.

24 (5) Both governments agreed to reach an um-
25 brella Science & Technology Agreement under which

1 existing R&D and Innovation funding programs can
2 operate jointly on common priorities, in order to in-
3 tensify, further and deepen the science and tech-
4 nology (in this Act referred to as “S&T”) and inno-
5 vation links between the United States and Israel
6 beyond the existing bilateral foundations operations.
7 The United States Department of State is drafting
8 this Agreement. Congress supports this agreement
9 and its implementation through Federal R&D and
10 innovation programs.

11 (6) The State of Israel has a centralized mecha-
12 nism for policy and funding industrial R&D within
13 the Ministry of Economy’s Industrial R&D Adminis-
14 tration, known as the Office of the Chief Scientist
15 (in this Act referred to as “OCS”). The OCS is the
16 State of Israel’s national authority in charge of pol-
17 icy and budgeting of industrial R&D and innovation.

18 (7) The U.S.–Israel Joint Economic Develop-
19 ment Group, a binational economic dialogue between
20 both governments (in this Act referred to as
21 “JEDG”) to further enhance cooperation between
22 the United States and Israel, requested the United
23 States-Israel Science & Technology Foundation map
24 and identify mechanisms of research and develop-

1 ment in neuroscience and neurotechnology that can
2 support further collaboration between the countries.

3 (8) Israeli scientists and engineers are at the
4 forefront of research and development in the field of
5 neuroscience.

6 (9) Israel Brain Technologies is a nonprofit or-
7 ganization whose mission is to turn Israel into a
8 global brain technology and research leader by—

9 (A) supporting applied brain research;

10 (B) accelerating brain technology develop-
11 ment;

12 (C) creating and fostering a community
13 around neurotechnology; and

14 (D) attracting key stakeholders to partner
15 and support brain technology in Israel.

16 (10) Enhanced cooperation between the United
17 States and Israel for the purpose of research and de-
18 velopment of neuroscience that would be in the na-
19 tional interests of both countries.

20 (b) BILATERAL INDUSTRIAL R&D AND INNOVATION
21 PROGRAMS.—

22 (1) Congress supports the expansion of U.S.–
23 Israel industry driven R&D with Federal and State
24 entities through innovation linkages to promote eco-
25 nomic growth and job creation.

1 (2) It is in the best interest of the United
2 States to hold a regular dialogue with Israel’s OCS
3 aiming to identify potential synergies and coordi-
4 nating bilateral cooperation between R&D programs
5 supported by the Federal Government and the Gov-
6 ernment of Israel detailing pathways to partnership
7 with the OCS, and Israel’s Ministry of Science,
8 Technology, and Space (in this Act referred to as
9 “MOST”).

10 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR NEUROSCIENCE-RELATED RESEARCH.**

11 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services, acting through the Director of the Na-
13 tional Institutes of Health, in consultation with their gov-
14 ernment counterparts at OCS and MOST, shall award
15 grants to eligible entities for neuroscience-related research
16 and related technological innovation.

17 (b) **APPLICATION.**—

18 (1) **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.**—To receive
19 a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall
20 submit an application to the Secretary containing
21 such information and assurances as the Secretary, in
22 consultation with the OCS and MOST, may require.

23 (2) **SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—The
24 Secretary, in consultation with the Directors of the
25 OCS and MOST, may review any application sub-

1 mitted by any eligible entity and select any eligible
2 entity meeting criteria established by the Secretary,
3 in consultation with the Advisory Committee, for a
4 grant under this section.

5 (c) RELATION TO SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS.—
6 The Secretary shall carry out this section through the
7 Small Business Innovation Research (“SBIR”) and Small
8 Business Technology Transfer (“STTR”) programs of the
9 National Institutes of Health.

10 (d) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of each grant
11 awarded for a fiscal year under this section shall be deter-
12 mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the OCS and
13 MOST.

14 (e) PRIVATE FUNDS.—The Secretary may accept
15 contributions of funds from private sources to carry out
16 this Act.

17 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after receiving
18 a grant under this section, each recipient shall submit a
19 report to the Secretary—

20 (1) documenting how the recipient used the
21 grant funds; and

22 (2) evaluating the level of success of each
23 project funded by the grant.

1 **SEC. 4. U.S.-ISRAEL NEUROSCIENCE ADVISORY COM-**
2 **MITTEE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 National Institutes of Health a U.S.–Israel Neuroscience
5 Advisory Committee.

6 (b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall advise
7 the Secretary on—

8 (1) criteria for the recipients of grants awarded
9 under section 3(a); and

10 (2) the total amount of grant money to be
11 awarded to all grantees selected by the Secretary, in
12 consultation with the OCS and MOST.

13 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Committee
15 shall be composed of—

16 (A) 3 members appointed by the Director
17 of the National Institutes of Health; and

18 (B) in addition to the members appointed
19 under subparagraph (A), 3 members who shall
20 be Israeli citizens, appointed by the Director of
21 the National Institutes of Health after con-
22 sultation with appropriate officials in the Israeli
23 Government.

24 (2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENTS.—The ini-
25 tial appointments under paragraph (1) shall be

1 made not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
2 ment of this Act.

3 (3) TERM.—Each member of the Advisory
4 Committee shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.

5 (4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Advisory
6 Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the
7 original appointment was made.

8 (5) BASIC PAY.—

9 (A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the
10 Advisory Committee shall serve without pay.

11 (B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of
12 the Advisory Committee shall receive travel ex-
13 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-
14 ence, in accordance with applicable provisions of
15 subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
16 States Code.

17 (6) QUORUM.—Three members of the Advisory
18 Committee shall constitute a quorum.

19 (7) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
20 Advisory Committee shall be designated by the Di-
21 rector of the National Institutes of Health from
22 among the members appointed by the Director at
23 the time of the appointment.

1 (8) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall
2 meet at least once annually at the call of the Chair-
3 person.

4 (d) TERMINATION.—Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Fed-
5 eral Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not
6 apply to the Advisory Committee.

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advi-
10 sory Committee” means the U.S.–Israel Neuro-
11 science Advisory Committee established by section
12 4(a).

13 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
14 ty” means a joint venture that—

15 (A) is comprised of—

16 (i) Israeli and United States private
17 business entities;

18 (ii) Israeli academic persons and
19 United States academic persons;

20 (iii) one or more Israeli private busi-
21 ness entities and one or more United
22 States academic persons; or

23 (iv) one or more United States private
24 business entities and one or more Israeli
25 academic persons;

1 (B) carries out an eligible project; and

2 (C) is selected by the Secretary, in con-
3 sultation with the OCS or MOST, using the cri-
4 teria established by the Secretary, in consulta-
5 tion with the Advisory Committee.

6 (3) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term “eligible
7 project” means a project to encourage cooperation
8 between the United States and Israel on neuro-
9 science-related research and related technological in-
10 novation.

11 (4) ISRAELI ACADEMIC PERSON.—The term
12 “Israeli academic person” means—

13 (A) an institution of higher education that
14 is located in Israel;

15 (B) a subsidiary or affiliate of such an in-
16 stitution that is located in Israel; or

17 (C) an individual who—

18 (i) conducts research for such an in-
19 stitution, subsidiary, or affiliate as an em-
20 ployee or contractor; and

21 (ii) resides and works in Israel.

22 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

24 (6) UNITED STATES ACADEMIC PERSON.—The
25 term “United States academic person” means—

1 (A) an institution of higher education that
2 is located in the United States;

3 (B) a subsidiary or affiliate of such an in-
4 stitution that is located in the United States; or

5 (C) an individual who—

6 (i) conducts research for such an in-
7 stitution, subsidiary, or affiliate as an em-
8 ployee or contractor; and

9 (ii) resides and works in the United
10 States.

11 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

12 The grant program authorized under section 3 and
13 the Advisory Committee shall terminate upon the expira-
14 tion of the 7-year period which begins on the date of the
15 enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 The Secretary is authorized to expend not more than
18 \$20,000,000 to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years
19 2016 through 2022.

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