

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5528

To direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a plan for improvements to traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress research.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2018

Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a plan for improvements to traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress 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 “Speed Warrior Out-
5 comes, Research, Detection and Diagnosis Act of 2018”
6 or the “SWORDD Act of 2018”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Department of Defense and the De-
2 fense and Veterans Brain Injury Center estimate
3 that 22 percent of all combat casualties from con-
4 flicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are brain injuries,
5 compared to 12 percent of Vietnam-related combat
6 casualties.

7 (2) The complex physiology of the human brain
8 presents unique challenges in the diagnosis and
9 treatment of these injuries, and places significant
10 emotional and financial burdens on families living
11 with those who suffer from post-traumatic stress
12 and traumatic brain injuries.

13 (3) Despite considerable effort and investment
14 devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of invisible
15 wounds incurred from military service during the
16 past decade, detection and diagnostic methods,
17 therapies, and outcomes for post-traumatic stress
18 and traumatic brain injuries are still not reaching
19 the military and veteran population fast enough.

20 (4) Accelerating innovation and treatment deliv-
21 ery for brain disease, particularly traumatic brain
22 injury and post-traumatic stress, would be assisted
23 by policies to improve collaboration between the De-
24 partment of Defense, the National Institutes of
25 Health, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and

1 medical research translation offices at major univer-
2 sities.

3 (5) Existing interagency mechanisms, such as
4 the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Re-
5 search and the Chronic Effects Neurotrauma Consor-
6 tium, play an important role in enabling break-
7 through therapies for traumatic brain injury and
8 post-traumatic stress by sharing science between
9 military and nonmilitary patients affected by brain
10 disease; however, new partnerships, policies, and
11 processes are required to speed treatment by more
12 effectively combining scientific research, commercial
13 technologies, and private equity firm resources to ac-
14 celerate the detection, diagnosis, and delivery of
15 therapies for military patients.

16 (6) Within the Department of Defense, the De-
17 fense Health Agency serves as the lead advocate for
18 brain disease diagnosis and treatment for members
19 of the Armed Forces.

20 **SEC. 3. PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TRAUMATIC BRAIN**
21 **INJURY AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS RE-**
22 **SEARCH.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit
25 to the congressional defense committees (as defined in sec-

1 tion 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code) a report
2 containing the following:

3 (1) A plan—

4 (A) for the Director of the Defense Health
5 Agency, in collaboration with the National In-
6 stitutes of Health, the Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs, major universities, and private firms, as
8 appropriate, to accelerate cooperative research,
9 development, and the fielding of breakthrough
10 therapies for traumatic brain injury and post-
11 traumatic stress;

12 (B) describing actions for the Director to
13 maximize the coordination and use of scientific
14 research efforts carried out by other elements of
15 the Department of Defense, the National Insti-
16 tutes of Health, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
17 fairs, major universities, and private firms, as
18 appropriate;

19 (C) describing the strategy of the Depart-
20 ment of Defense to leverage existing other
21 transaction agreements pursuant to section
22 2371 of title 10, United States Code, such as
23 the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium
24 of the Army, to encourage financial collabora-
25 tion and accelerate breakthrough therapies for

1 the treatment of traumatic brain injury and
2 post-traumatic stress; and

3 (D) describing new processes to accelerate
4 scientific research and delivery of breakthrough
5 therapies for traumatic brain injury and post-
6 traumatic stress.

7 (2) Recommendations by the Secretary for execu-
8 tive or legislative actions necessary to carry out the
9 plan.

○