

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8149

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an initiative to identify and validate brain and mental health biomarkers among veterans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Mr. LAMB (for himself and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an initiative to identify and validate brain and mental health biomarkers among veterans.

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 “VA Precision Medicine  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRECISION MEDICINE INITIATIVE OF DEPARTMENT**  
2 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IDENTIFY AND**  
3 **VALIDATE BRAIN AND MENTAL HEALTH BIO-**  
4 **MARKERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than two  
6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement an  
8 initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify  
9 and validate brain and mental health biomarkers among  
10 veterans, with specific consideration for depression, anx-  
11 iety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, trau-  
12 matic brain injury, and such other mental health condi-  
13 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate. Such initia-  
14 tive may be referred to as the “Precision Medicine for Vet-  
15 erans Initiative”.

16 (b) MODEL OF INITIATIVE.—The initiative under  
17 subsection (a) shall be modeled on the All of Us Precision  
18 Medicine Initiative administered by the National Insti-  
19 tutes of Health with respect to large-scale collection of  
20 standardized data and open data sharing.

21 (c) USE OF DATA.—

22 (1) PRIVACY AND SECURITY.—In carrying out  
23 the initiative under subsection (a), the Secretary  
24 shall develop robust data privacy and security meas-  
25 ures to ensure that information of veterans partici-  
26 pating in the initiative is kept private and secure.

1 (2) OPEN PLATFORM.—

2 (A) RESEARCH PURPOSES.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
4 make de-identified data collected under the  
5 initiative available for research purposes  
6 both within and outside of the Department  
7 of Veterans Affairs.

8 (ii) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall  
9 assist the National Institutes of Health  
10 and the Department of Energy in the use  
11 by the National Institutes of Health or the  
12 Department of Energy of data collected  
13 under the initiative for research purposes  
14 under clause (i).

15 (B) DATA MAY NOT BE SOLD.—Data col-  
16 lected under the initiative may not be sold.

17 (3) STANDARDIZATION.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall en-  
19 sure that data collected under the initiative is  
20 standardized.

21 (B) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall  
22 consult with the National Institutes of Health  
23 and the Food and Drug Administration to de-  
24 termine the most effective, efficient, and cost-

1 effective way of standardizing data collected  
2 under the initiative.

3 (C) MANNER OF STANDARDIZATION.—

4 Data collected under the initiative shall be  
5 standardized in the manner in which it is col-  
6 lected, entered into the database, extracted, and  
7 recorded.

8 (4) MEASURES OF BRAIN FUNCTION OR STRUC-  
9 TURE.—Any measures of brain function or structure  
10 collected under the initiative shall be collected with  
11 a device that is approved by the Food and Drug Ad-  
12 ministration.

13 (d) INCLUSION OF INITIATIVE IN PROGRAM.—The  
14 Secretary shall assess the feasibility and advisability of co-  
15 ordinating efforts of the initiative under subsection (a)  
16 with the Million Veterans Program of the Department,  
17 while seeking a population-based sample.

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