

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2011

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all of those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2021

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all of those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

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 “COVID–19 Vaccine  
5 Developers Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Researchers, scientists, doctors, epidemiolo-  
2           gists, and others around the world have worked tire-  
3           lessly and collaboratively to develop lifesaving vac-  
4           cines to combat the coronavirus by reducing the like-  
5           lihood of transmission, building immune resiliency,  
6           avoiding hospitalizations, and reducing the likelihood  
7           of death.

8           (2) Through the academic, research and ana-  
9           lytic expertise of universities and their faculty, re-  
10          searchers, and students, their efforts contributed to  
11          providing valuable information to the public on the  
12          severity of the coronavirus worldwide and, in some  
13          cases, contributed to vaccine development.

14          (3) Several of the resulting vaccines represent  
15          historic breakthroughs in biopharmaceutical tech-  
16          nology, which are predicated on years of leading re-  
17          search conducted in laboratories and hospitals that  
18          benefit from the significant financial investment of  
19          United States taxpayers through the Department of  
20          Health and Human Services, the National Institutes  
21          of Health, including the National Institute of Allergy  
22          and Infectious Diseases, and the Biomedical Ad-  
23          vanced Research and Development Authority.

24          (4) These professionals worked under record  
25          timelines to develop safe, effective vaccines dem-

1 onstrated in trials and granted emergency use au-  
2 thorization by the Food and Drug Administration,  
3 outpacing the typical vaccine development timeframe  
4 of 5 to 10 years and beating the previous record by  
5 3 years.

6 (5) These remarkable achievements in medical  
7 science will have positive implications for future vac-  
8 cine development, helping to combat new viruses,  
9 leading to improvements in health and well-being.

10 (6) The tremendous efforts in vaccine develop-  
11 ment can be celebrated and attributed to building di-  
12 verse teams, including the notable efforts of many  
13 individuals across the planet.

14 (7) Vaccines authorized for emergency use in  
15 the United States benefitted greatly from global co-  
16 operation, strategic partnerships, and collaboration  
17 with publicly funded agencies and research capabili-  
18 ties of the academic community.

19 (8) As a result of the collaborative efforts, peo-  
20 ple around the world are benefitting from the ad-  
21 ministration of vaccines, although work remains to  
22 support governments around the world in ensuring  
23 vaccines are equitably distributed.

24 (9) The United States, including through co-  
25 operation with bilateral and multilateral partner-

1 ships, can help scale up manufacturing and distribu-  
2 tion to all corners of the globe.

3 (10) The vaccines developed are contributing to  
4 the safety of people of the United States, rebuilding  
5 the United States economy, and the reunion of fami-  
6 lies.

7 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

8 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
9 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
10 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
11 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single  
12 gold medal of appropriate design in recognition of all those  
13 whose efforts led to the successful development of vaccines  
14 that received emergency use authorizations to respond to  
15 the coronavirus.

16 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
17 awards under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treas-  
18 ury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike  
19 a gold medal described in that subsection with suitable  
20 emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by  
21 the Secretary.

22 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold  
24 medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given

1 to the Smithsonian Institution where the medal shall  
2 be—

3 (A) available for display, as appropriate;

4 and

5 (B) made available for research.

6 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
7 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
8 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
9 available for—

10 (A) the purpose of education, research, and  
11 the encouragement of science, technology, engi-  
12 neering, and math professions through the  
13 Smithsonian Science Education Center; and

14 (B) on display at a physical Smithsonian  
15 museum or on loan, as appropriate, so that the  
16 medal may be displayed elsewhere.

17 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

18 Under regulations that the Secretary may promul-  
19 gate, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
20 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price  
21 sufficient to cover the cost of the medals, including labor,  
22 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under  
3 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51  
4 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
8 items.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
10 **SALE.**

11 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
13 Public Enterprise Fund such sums as may be necessary  
14 to pay for the costs of the medal authorized under section  
15 3.

16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
18 4 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public En-  
19 terprise Fund.

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