

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7180

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID–19 infection, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Brycen Gray and Ben
3 Price COVID–19 Cognitive Research Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act—

6 (1) the term “Director” means the Director of
7 the National Science Foundation;

8 (2) the term “National Academies” means the
9 National Academies of Science, Engineering, and
10 Medicine; and

11 (3) the term “eligible entity” means an institu-
12 tion of higher education (as such term is defined in
13 section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
14 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) or a consortium composed of non-
15 profit organizations and institutions of higher edu-
16 cation.

17 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

18 Congress makes the following findings:

19 (1) The COVID–19 pandemic has disrupted
20 nearly every aspect of life across the globe. Further-
21 more, it has produced major disruptions of individ-
22 ual’s physical and mental health, including with re-
23 spect of children and adolescents.

24 (2) Historical epidemiological perspectives sug-
25 gest an association between exposure to general res-

1 piratory viruses and subsequent disruption of reg-
2 ular cognitive processes.

3 (3) Early research suggests that one in three
4 individuals diagnosed with a COVID–19 infection
5 experiences a disruption of regular cognitive proc-
6 esses within six months of such diagnosis.

7 (4) Research is urgently needed to better un-
8 derstand why disruption in regular cognitive proc-
9 esses occur in patients as a consequence of a
10 COVID–19 infection and how long such disruptions
11 can continue after recovery.

12 (5) The National Science Foundation has a
13 deep history of supporting interdisciplinary, basic re-
14 search that spans the social, behavioral, and funda-
15 mental biological sciences and paves the way for sci-
16 entific advancements.

17 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

18 The Director shall award grants to eligible entities,
19 including through the RAPID funding mechanism, on a
20 competitive, merit-reviewed basis to support interdiscipli-
21 nary research on the disruption of regular cognitive proc-
22 esses associated with both short-term and long-term
23 COVID–19 infections, including with respect to children
24 and adolescents. Such research may include the following:

1 (1) Foundational studies on the effects of cog-
2 nition, emotion, and neural structure and function
3 relating to any disruption of regular cognitive proc-
4 esses associated with COVID–19 infection.

5 (2) Analysis of findings on the disruption of
6 regular cognitive processes associated with COVID–
7 19 infection, including the development of predictive
8 theoretical frameworks to guide future research.

9 (3) Development of physical and conceptual
10 tools needed to evaluate cognition, emotion, and neu-
11 ral structure and function of the brain as a con-
12 sequence of a COVID–19 infection, and the potential
13 relevance of such infection to the disruption of reg-
14 ular cognitive processes.

15 (4) Studies on the relevance of psychological
16 and psychosocial factors, including major disruptions
17 of physical health, mental health, and economic sta-
18 bility associated with the COVID–19 pandemic, on
19 the disruption of regular cognitive processes, includ-
20 ing an identification and evaluation of such factors.

21 (5) Any other activities the Director determines
22 will support interdisciplinary research and collabora-
23 tion on the disruption of regular cognitive processes
24 associated with COVID–19 infection, including with
25 respect to children and adolescents.

1 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON THE DISRUPTION**
2 **OF COGNITIVE PROCESSES ASSOCIATED**
3 **WITH COVID-19 INFECTION.**

4 (a) STUDY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director
7 shall enter into an agreement with the National
8 Academies to study and produce a report on the dis-
9 ruption of cognitive processes associated with
10 COVID-19 infection. The study shall—

11 (A) review the research literature and iden-
12 tify research gaps regarding Federal programs
13 and activities with roles in addressing both
14 short-term and long-term consequences associ-
15 ated with COVID-19 infection;

16 (B) assess the necessity of establishing
17 causal inference approaches into research on
18 the impacts of COVID-19 infection on cognitive
19 processes to determine reverse causation;

20 (C) evaluate and make recommendations
21 regarding the coordination of research and data
22 collection, including with respect to children
23 and adolescents, to identify the disruption of
24 regular cognitive processes associated with
25 COVID-19 infection, including long-term
26 COVID-19;

1 (D) evaluate impacts of COVID–19 infec-
2 tion on populations under-represented in cog-
3 nitive literature, such as poor, rural, and minor-
4 ity populations; and

5 (E) make recommendations regarding ways
6 to coordinate engagement with researchers and
7 stakeholders from universities, industry, public
8 health organizations, State and local govern-
9 ments, elementary and secondary educational
10 organizations, and non-profit organizations to
11 ensure that research, information, and best
12 practices relating to the disruption of regular
13 cognitive processes associated with COVID–19
14 infection, including long-term COVID–19, are
15 shared among such entities.

16 (2) COMPLETION.—The study required under
17 paragraph (1) shall be completed by not later than
18 the date that is 16 months after the date of the en-
19 actment of this Act.

20 (b) REPORTS.—

21 (1) BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—Upon
22 completion of the study under subsection (a), the
23 National Academies shall transmit to the Director
24 and Congress a report on such study.

8 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
9 tor to carry out this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2023,
10 to remain available through fiscal year 2025, of which
11 \$1,000,000 is authorized to carry out the study and
12 produce the reports under section 5.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.