

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3414

To require the Government Accountability Office to evaluate the policies and actions of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research involving the enhancement of potential pandemic pathogens and related activities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To require the Government Accountability Office to evaluate the policies and actions of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research involving the enhancement of potential pandemic pathogens and related activities.

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 “National Biosecurity
5 Improvement Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
3 United States shall conduct a study of the policies and
4 past actions of the National Institutes of Health with re-
5 spect to research involving the enhancement of potential
6 pandemic pathogens and related research that could result
7 in unintended homeland and national security concerns.
8 Such study shall consider—

9 (1) how Federal agencies that fund research in-
10 volving the enhancement of potential pandemic
11 pathogens and related risky research with potentially
12 dangerous pathogens, including the Department of
13 Health and Human Services and the Department of
14 Defense, ensure that such research is conducted
15 safely and securely and without compromising na-
16 tional security;

17 (2) efforts to establish a common domestic and
18 international approach to ensuring the safety and
19 security of research involving the enhancement of
20 potential pandemic pathogens and related risky re-
21 search with potentially dangerous pathogens; and

22 (3) the extent that Federal agencies described
23 in paragraph (1) consider national security informa-
24 tion when making decisions about Federal funding
25 to support research in other countries.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
3 of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
4 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee
5 on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Armed Services
6 of the Senate a report containing the results of the study
7 conducted under subsection (a), including policy rec-
8 ommendations.

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