

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1143

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2023

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

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 “United States-Israel
5 PTSD Collaborative Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs reports
2 that between 11 and 20 percent of veterans who
3 served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation
4 Enduring Freedom have post-traumatic stress dis-
5 order (in this subsection referred to as “PTSD”) in
6 a given year. In addition, that figure amounts to
7 about 12 percent of Gulf War veterans and up to 30
8 percent of Vietnam veterans.

9 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs reports
10 that among women veterans of the conflicts in Iraq
11 and Afghanistan, almost 20 percent have been diag-
12 nosed with PTSD.

13 (3) It is thought that 70 percent of individuals
14 in the United States have experienced at least one
15 traumatic event in their lifetime, and approximately
16 20 percent of those individuals have struggled or
17 continue to struggle with symptoms of PTSD.

18 (4) Studies show that PTSD has links to home-
19 lessness and substance abuse in the United States.
20 The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that
21 approximately 11 percent of the homeless population
22 are veterans and the Substance Abuse and Mental
23 Health Services Administration estimates that about
24 seven percent of veterans have a substance abuse
25 disorder.

1 (5) Our ally Israel, under constant attack from
 2 terrorist groups, experiences similar issues with
 3 Israeli veterans facing symptoms of PTSD. The Na-
 4 tional Center for Traumatic Stress and Resilience at
 5 Tel Aviv University found that five to eight percent
 6 of combat soldiers experience some form of PTSD,
 7 and during wartime, that figure rises to 15 to 20
 8 percent.

9 (6) Current treatment options in the United
 10 States focus on cognitive therapy, exposure therapy,
 11 or eye movement desensitization and reprocessing,
 12 but the United States must continue to look for
 13 more effective treatments. Several leading hospitals,
 14 academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations in
 15 Israel dedicate research and services to treating
 16 PTSD.

17 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM FOR INCREASED COOPERATION**
 18 **ON POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER RE-**
 19 **SEARCH BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND**
 20 **ISRAEL.**

21 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 22 gress that the Secretary of Defense, acting through the
 23 Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Re-
 24 search Program, should seek to explore scientific collabo-
 25 ration between academic institutions and nonprofit re-

1 search entities in the United States and institutions in
2 Israel with expertise in researching, diagnosing, and treat-
3 ing post-traumatic stress disorder.

4 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in
6 coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
7 and the Secretary of State, shall award grants to eli-
8 gible entities to carry out collaborative research be-
9 tween the United States and Israel with respect to
10 post-traumatic stress disorders.

11 (2) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
12 shall carry out the grant program under this section
13 in accordance with the Agreement on the United
14 States-Israel binational science foundation with ex-
15 change of letters, signed at New York September 27,
16 1972, and entered into force on September 27,
17 1972.

18 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
19 grant under this section, an entity shall be an academic
20 institution or a nonprofit entity located in the United
21 States.

22 (d) AWARD.—The Secretary shall award grants
23 under this section to eligible entities that—

24 (1) carry out a research project that—

1 (A) addresses a requirement in the area of
2 post-traumatic stress disorders that the Sec-
3 retary determines appropriate to research using
4 such grant; and

5 (B) is conducted by the eligible entity and
6 an entity in Israel under a joint research agree-
7 ment; and

8 (2) meet such other criteria that the Secretary
9 may establish.

10 (e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
11 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
12 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
13 containing such commitments and information as the Sec-
14 retary may require.

15 (f) GIFT AUTHORITY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept,
17 hold, and administer any gift of money made on the
18 condition that the gift be used for the purpose of the
19 grant program under this section.

20 (2) DEPOSIT.—Gifts of money accepted under
21 paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the Treasury in
22 the Department of Defense General Gift Fund and
23 shall be available, subject to appropriation, without
24 fiscal year limitation.

1 (g) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date on which an eligible entity completes a research
3 project using a grant under this section, the Secretary
4 shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

5 (1) a description of how the eligible entity used
6 the grant; and

7 (2) an evaluation of the level of success of the
8 research project.

9 (h) TERMINATION.—The authority to award grants
10 under this section shall terminate on the date that is seven
11 years after the date on which the first such grant is
12 awarded.

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