

[~117H5270]

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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To prohibit the National Institutes of Health from conducting or supporting
certain gain-of-function research, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to
the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit the National Institutes of Health from con-
ducting or supporting certain gain-of-function research,
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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pausing Enhanced
5 Pandemic Pathogen Research Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. NO CONDUCT OR SUPPORT BY NIH OF GAIN-OF-**
2 **FUNCTION RESEARCH.**

3 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 404P. GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH.**

7 “(a) PROHIBITION.—During the period ending on
8 March 30, 2028, the National Institutes of Health shall
9 not conduct or support, directly or indirectly, including
10 through subgrants, any gain-of-function research.

11 “(b) LIMITATION.—This section does not apply to
12 characterization or testing of any naturally occurring in-
13 fluenza virus or coronavirus, unless the characterization
14 or testing could increase pathogenicity or transmissibility.

15 “(c) GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH DEFINED.—In
16 this section, the term ‘gain-of-function research’ means
17 any research that could enhance the transmissibility,
18 virulence, or pathogenicity of any pathogen (whether or
19 not classified as a pathogen of pandemic potential) or non-
20 pathogen agent in a way that could result in one or more
21 of the following:

22 “(1) The pathogen or agent becoming mod-
23 erately or highly transmissible, virulent, or patho-
24 genic in human populations.

25 “(2) The pathogen or agent causing significant
26 morbidity or mortality in humans.

1 “(3) The pathogen or agent posing a severe
2 threat to public health, the capacity of public health
3 systems, or the national security of the United
4 States.”.