

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6195

To direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on anomalous health incidents affecting members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on anomalous health incidents affecting members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense, 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 “Combatting Anomalous
5 Health Incidents Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BRIEFING ON ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENTS IN-**
2 **VOLVING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) BRIEFING.—Not later than March 1, 2022, the
4 Secretary of Defense shall provide to the appropriate con-
5 gressional committees a briefing on anomalous health inci-
6 dents affecting members of the Armed Forces and civilian
7 employees of the Department of Defense, any ongoing ef-
8 forts carried out by the Secretary to protect such members
9 and employees from the effects of anomalous health inci-
10 dents, and the extent and nature of engagement by the
11 Secretary with the heads of other Federal departments
12 and agencies regarding anomalous health incidents affect-
13 ing the employees of such other departments and agencies.

14 (b) MATTERS.—The briefing provided under sub-
15 section (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

16 (1) Information on cases of confirmed or sus-
17 pected anomalous health incidents affecting mem-
18 bers of the Armed Forces or civilian employees of
19 the Department.

20 (2) An update on the strategy of the Depart-
21 ment to protect such members and employees from
22 the effects of anomalous health incidents, including
23 any efforts carried out by the Secretary to ensure
24 that—

25 (A) suspected anomalous health incidents
26 are promptly reported; and

1 (B) victims of anomalous health incidents
2 are provided immediate and long-term medical
3 treatment.

4 (3) The current efforts of the Department to
5 contribute to the overall approach of the U.S. Gov-
6 ernment to address, prevent, and respond to, anoma-
7 lous health incidents, including such contributed ef-
8 forts of the Department to defend against anoma-
9 lous health incident attacks against personnel of the
10 U.S. Government and United States citizens.

11 (4) The current efforts of the Department to
12 prepare members of the Armed Forces and civilian
13 employees of the Department for the effects of
14 anomalous health incidents, including prior to de-
15 ployment.

16 (5) Recommendations on how to improve the
17 identification and reporting of anomalous health in-
18 cidents affecting such members and employees, in-
19 cluding a recommendation on whether to conduct a
20 health assessment prior to the deployment of such
21 members or employees if the prospective deployment
22 is to an embassy of the United States (or to another
23 location that the Secretary determines may present
24 a heightened risk of anomalous health incidents), to
25 establish a medical baseline against which medical

1 data of the member or employee may be compared
2 following a suspected anomalous health incident.

3 (6) An identification by the Secretary of a sen-
4 ior official of the Department who has been des-
5 ignated by the Secretary as the official with prin-
6 cipal responsibility for leading the efforts of the De-
7 partment regarding anomalous health incidents (and
8 related issues within the Department) and for co-
9 ordinating with the heads of other Federal depart-
10 ments and agencies regarding such incidents and re-
11 lated issues.

12 (c) SENATE CONFIRMATION OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—If the designated senior official identified pur-
13 suant to subsection (b)(6) has not been appointed by and
14 with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Secretary
15 shall ensure that the principal responsibility for the ac-
16 tions specified in such subsection is transferred to a senior
17 official of the Department who has been so appointed.

18 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
19 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
20 gressional committees” means—

21 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
22 Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Com-
23 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
24 House of Representatives; and
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1 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
2 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
3 Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
4 and Transportation of the Senate.

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