

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4071

To prohibit the use of Federal funds to conduct or support certain gain-of-function research by a foreign adversary.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2021

Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACKSON, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. NUNES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To prohibit the use of Federal funds to conduct or support certain gain-of-function research by a foreign adversary.

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 “Foreign Gain-of-Func-  
5 tion Research Prevention Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CERTAIN**  
2 **GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH BY A FOR-**  
3 **EIGN ADVERSARY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—No Federal funds may be made  
5 available, whether directly or indirectly, or used by an en-  
6 tity, to conduct or support any gain-of-function research  
7 involving a potential pandemic pathogen by a foreign ad-  
8 versary, including—

9 (1) China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea; and

10 (2) any other country the Secretary of State, in  
11 consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Di-  
12 rector of National Intelligence, or any other appro-  
13 priate Federal official, determines to be a foreign  
14 adversary for the purposes of this section.

15 (b) FUNDING FREEZE FOR VIOLATIONS.—Any entity  
16 the Secretary of State finds to have used Federal funds  
17 in violation of this section may not receive any Federal  
18 funding for a period of 5 years, beginning on the date of  
19 such finding.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH.—The term  
22 “gain-of-function research” means any research that  
23 may be reasonably anticipated to confer an attribute  
24 to a pathogen such that the pathogen would have  
25 enhanced pathogenicity or transmissibility in mam-  
26 mals.

1           (2) POTENTIAL PANDEMIC PATHOGEN.—The  
2       term “potential pandemic pathogen” means a patho-  
3       gen that, prior to any gain-of-function research—

4           (A) is likely highly transmissible and likely  
5       capable of wide and uncontrollable spread in  
6       human populations; and

7           (B) is likely highly virulent and likely to  
8       cause significant morbidity or mortality in hu-  
9       mans.

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