

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5270

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. GALLAGHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To prohibit the National Institutes of Health from conducting 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 2021”.

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. 404O. GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH.**

7 “(a) PROHIBITION.—During the period ending on  
8 September 30, 2026, the National Institutes of Health  
9 shall not conduct or support, directly or indirectly, includ-  
10 ing through subgrants, any gain-of-function research that  
11 may be reasonably anticipated to confer attributes to any  
12 influenza virus or coronavirus (including any coronavirus  
13 that is associated with severe acute respiratory syndrome)  
14 such that the virus would have enhanced pathogenicity or  
15 transmissibility in mammals via the respiratory route.

16 “(b) LIMITATION.—This section does not apply to  
17 characterization or testing of any naturally occurring in-  
18 fluenza virus or coronavirus, unless the characterization  
19 or testing is anticipated to increase pathogenicity or trans-  
20 missibility.”.

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