

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5287

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all of those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mr. KATKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all of those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

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 “COVID–19 Vaccine
5 Developers Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The public-private partnership, Operation
4 Warp Speed, sought to develop, manufacture, and
5 ship 300,000,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines
6 around the United States.

7 (2) This effort would not have been possible
8 without researchers, scientists, doctors, epidemiolo-
9 gists, and others around the world who have worked
10 tirelessly and collaboratively to develop lifesaving
11 vaccines to combat the coronavirus by reducing the
12 likelihood of transmission, building immune resil-
13 iency, avoiding hospitalizations, and reducing the
14 likelihood of death.

15 (3) Through the academic, research, and ana-
16 lytic expertise of universities and their faculty, re-
17 searchers, and students, their efforts contributed to
18 providing valuable information to the public on the
19 severity of the coronavirus worldwide and, in some
20 cases, contributed to vaccine development.

21 (4) Several of the resulting vaccines represent
22 historic breakthroughs in biopharmaceutical tech-
23 nology, which are predicated on years of leading re-
24 search conducted in laboratories and hospitals that
25 benefit from the significant financial investment of
26 United States taxpayers through the Department of

1 Health and Human Services, the National Institutes
2 of Health, including the National Institute of Allergy
3 and Infectious Diseases, and the Biomedical Ad-
4 vanced Research and Development Authority.

5 (5) As a response to COVID–19, Congress pro-
6 vided \$47,600,000,000 for the effort to support the
7 private sector’s research and development into effec-
8 tive technologies, the scale-up of manufacturing ca-
9 pacity for promising vaccine candidates, and the dis-
10 tribution of vaccines that received emergency use au-
11 thorization by the Food and Drug Administration.

12 (6) These professionals worked under record
13 timelines to develop safe, effective vaccines dem-
14 onstrated in trials and granted emergency use au-
15 thorization by the Food and Drug Administration. It
16 shattered the typical timeline for vaccine develop-
17 ment and production from over a decade to less than
18 12 months.

19 (7) The first vaccine trial volunteers who lined
20 up to have shots administered in their arms paved
21 the way for emergency use authorization by the
22 Food and Drug Administration and the hundreds of
23 millions of people of the United States that have
24 since been vaccinated.

1 (8) These remarkable achievements in medical
2 science will have positive implications for future vac-
3 cine development, helping to combat new viruses,
4 leading to improvements in health and well-being.

5 (9) The tremendous efforts in vaccine develop-
6 ment can be celebrated and attributed to building di-
7 verse teams, including the notable efforts of many
8 individuals across the planet.

9 (10) Vaccines authorized for emergency use in
10 the United States benefitted greatly from global co-
11 operation, strategic partnerships, and collaboration
12 with publicly funded agencies and research capabili-
13 ties of the academic community.

14 (11) As a result of the collaborative efforts,
15 people around the world are benefitting from the ad-
16 ministration of vaccines, although work remains to
17 support governments around the world in ensuring
18 vaccines are equitably distributed.

19 (12) The United States, including through co-
20 operation with bilateral and multilateral partner-
21 ships, can help scale up manufacturing and distribu-
22 tion to all corners of the globe.

23 (13) Operation Warp Speed successfully laid
24 the groundwork for reopening the United States
25 economy, contributing to the safety of the people of

1 the United States, the reunion of families, and is the
2 greatest medical achievement in modern times.

3 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

4 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
5 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
6 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
7 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
8 gold medal of appropriate design in recognition of all those
9 whose efforts led to the successful development of vaccines
10 that received emergency use authorizations to respond to
11 the coronavirus.

12 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
13 award under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury
14 (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike
15 a gold medal described in that subsection with suitable
16 emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by
17 the Secretary.

18 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold
20 medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given
21 to the Smithsonian Institution where the medal shall
22 be—

23 (A) available for display, as appropriate;

24 and

25 (B) made available for research.

1 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
2 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
3 make the gold medal received under this Act avail-
4 able for—

5 (A) the purpose of education, research, and
6 the encouragement of science, technology, engi-
7 neering, and math professions through the
8 Smithsonian Science Education Center; and

9 (B) display elsewhere, particularly at other
10 locations or events associated with Operation
11 Warp Speed or COVID–19 vaccine develop-
12 ment.

13 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell
15 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under sec-
16 tion 3 at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the medals,
17 including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and
18 overhead expenses.

19 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
20 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
21 4 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public En-
22 terprise Fund.

23 (c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
24 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
25 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-

1 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
5 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
6 of title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
8 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
9 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

10 **SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

11 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
12 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
13 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
14 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
15 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
16 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
17 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
18 vote on passage.

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