

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5772

To authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on neurological and psychiatric illnesses associated with COVID–19 infection, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2021

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. WILD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MELJER, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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

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## A BILL

To authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on neurological and psychiatric illnesses associated with COVID–19 infection, 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 “Brycen Gray and Ben  
5 Price COVID–19 Neurological Impact Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Historical epidemiological perspectives sug-  
4 gest an association between exposure to general res-  
5 piratory viruses and subsequent neurological and  
6 psychiatric illnesses.

7 (2) Early research suggests that one in three  
8 patients diagnosed with a COVID–19 infection expe-  
9 riences a neurological or psychiatric illness within six  
10 months of such diagnosis.

11 (3) Research is urgently needed to better un-  
12 derstand why neurological and psychiatric illnesses  
13 occur in patients following a COVID–19 infection, so  
14 that treatments and therapeutic strategies can be  
15 developed.

16 (4) The National Science Foundation and the  
17 National Institutes of Health have a deep history of  
18 supporting collaborative research that spans the bio-  
19 logical sciences and paves the way for health-related  
20 advancements.

21 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

22 The Director of the National Science Foundation, in  
23 consultation with the Director of the National Institutes  
24 of Health and the Director of the National Institute of  
25 Mental Health, is authorized to award grants on a com-  
26 petitive basis to support multidisciplinary research on neu-

1 rological and psychiatric illnesses associated with COVID–  
2 19 infection, including with respect to children and adoles-  
3 cents. Such research may include research into any of the  
4 following:

5 (1) The incidence of neurological and psy-  
6 chiatric illness associated with COVID–19 infection.

7 (2) Brain function following a COVID–19 infec-  
8 tion and the potential relevance of such infection to  
9 neurological and psychiatric illnesses.

10 (3) The relevance of psychological and psycho-  
11 social factors associated with the COVID–19 pan-  
12 demic to neurological and psychiatric illnesses, in-  
13 cluding an identification and evaluation of such fac-  
14 tors.

15 (4) Other science with potential relevance to the  
16 causes, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of neu-  
17 rological and psychiatric illnesses associated with  
18 COVID–19 infection.

19 **SEC. 4. COVID–19 MENTAL HEALTH INTERAGENCY WORK-**  
20 **ING GROUP.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of  
22 Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the  
23 National Science and Technology Council, shall establish  
24 an interagency working group—

1           (1) to coordinate Federal programs and activi-  
2 ties with roles in addressing—

3                 (A) neurological and psychiatric illnesses  
4 associated with COVID–19 infection; and

5                 (B) psychological and psychosocial factors  
6 associated with the COVID–19 pandemic that  
7 may be relevant to such illnesses;

8           (2) to coordinate Federal research and data col-  
9 lection, including with respect to children and ado-  
10 lescents—

11                 (A) to identify neurological and psychiatric  
12 illnesses associated with COVID–19 infection;  
13 and

14                 (B) to improve understanding of psycho-  
15 logical and psychosocial factors associated with  
16 the COVID–19 pandemic that may be relevant  
17 to such illnesses; and

18           (3) to coordinate engagement with researchers  
19 and stakeholders from universities, industry, public  
20 health organizations, health care providers, State  
21 and local governments, elementary and secondary  
22 educational organizations, and non-profit organiza-  
23 tions to ensure that research, information, and best  
24 practices relating to neurological and psychiatric ill-

1 nesses associated with COVID–19 infection are  
2 shared among such entities.

3 (b) CO-CHAIRS.—The interagency working group  
4 shall be co-chaired by—

5 (1) the Director of the Office of Science and  
6 Technology Policy; and

7 (2) a member of the interagency working group  
8 selected by the Director of the Office of Science and  
9 Technology Policy.

10 (c) TERMINATION.—The interagency working group  
11 shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date  
12 of the enactment of this Act.

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