

## Union Calendar No.

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7180

[Report No. 117-]

To authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2022

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

JUNE --, 2022

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,  
and ordered to be printed

# **A BILL**

To authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes 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 Cognitive Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7        In this Act—

8            (1) the term “Director” means the Director of  
9        the National Science Foundation;

10           (2) the term “National Academies” means the  
11        National Academies of Science, Engineering, and  
12        Medicine; and

13           (3) the term “eligible entity” means an institu-  
14        tion of higher education (as such term is defined in  
15        section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
16        (20 U.S.C. 1002)) or a consortium composed of non-  
17        profit organizations and institutions of higher edu-  
18        cation.

19 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

20        Congress makes the following findings:

21           (1) The COVID–19 pandemic has disrupted  
22        nearly every aspect of life across the globe. Further-  
23        more, it has produced major disruptions of individ-  
24        ual’s physical and mental health, including with re-  
25        spect of children and adolescents.

1           (2) Historical epidemiological perspectives sug-  
2           gest an association between exposure to general res-  
3           piratory viruses and subsequent disruption of reg-  
4           ular cognitive processes.

5           (3) Early research suggests that one in three  
6           individuals diagnosed with a COVID–19 infection  
7           experiences a disruption of regular cognitive proc-  
8           esses within six months of such diagnosis.

9           (4) Research is urgently needed to better un-  
10          derstand why disruption in regular cognitive proc-  
11          esses occur in patients as a consequence of a  
12          COVID–19 infection and how long such disruptions  
13          can continue after recovery.

14          (5) The National Science Foundation has a  
15          deep history of supporting interdisciplinary, basic re-  
16          search that spans the social, behavioral, and funda-  
17          mental biological sciences and paves the way for sci-  
18          entific advancements.

19 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

20          The Director shall award grants to eligible entities,  
21          including through the RAPID funding mechanism, on a  
22          competitive, merit-reviewed basis to support interdiscipli-  
23          nary research on the disruption of regular cognitive proc-  
24          esses associated with both short-term and long-term

1 COVID–19 infections, including with respect to children  
2 and adolescents. Such research may include the following:

3 (1) Foundational studies on the effects of cog-  
4 nition, emotion, and neural structure and function  
5 relating to any disruption of regular cognitive proc-  
6 esses associated with COVID-19 infection.

7 (2) Analysis of findings on the disruption of  
8 regular cognitive processes associated with COVID–  
9 19 infection, including the development of predictive  
10 theoretical frameworks to guide future research.

11 (3) Development of physical and conceptual  
12 tools needed to evaluate cognition, emotion, and neu-  
13 ral structure and function of the brain as a con-  
14 sequence of a COVID–19 infection, and the potential  
15 relevance of such infection to the disruption of reg-  
16 ular cognitive processes.

17 (4) Studies on the relevance of psychological  
18 and psychosocial factors, including major disruptions  
19 of physical health, mental health, and economic sta-  
20 bility associated with the COVID–19 pandemic, on  
21 the disruption of regular cognitive processes, includ-  
22 ing an identification and evaluation of such factors.

23 (5) Any other activities the Director determines  
24 will support interdisciplinary research and collabora-  
25 tion on the disruption of regular cognitive processes

1 associated with COVID–19 infection, including with  
2 respect to children and adolescents.

3 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON THE DISRUPTION**  
4 **OF COGNITIVE PROCESSES ASSOCIATED**  
5 **WITH COVID–19 INFECTION.**

6 (a) STUDY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after  
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director  
9 shall enter into an agreement with the National  
10 Academies to study and produce a report on the dis-  
11 ruption of cognitive processes associated with  
12 COVID–19 infection. The study shall—

13 (A) review the research literature and iden-  
14 tify research gaps regarding Federal programs  
15 and activities with roles in addressing both  
16 short-term and long-term consequences associ-  
17 ated with COVID–19 infection;

18 (B) assess the necessity of establishing  
19 causal inference approaches into research on  
20 the impacts of COVID-19 infection on cognitive  
21 processes to determine reverse causation;

22 (C) evaluate and make recommendations  
23 regarding the coordination of research and data  
24 collection, including with respect to children  
25 and adolescents, to identify the disruption of

1 regular cognitive processes associated with  
2 COVID-19 infection, including long-term  
3 COVID-19;

4 (D) evaluate impacts of COVID-19 infec-  
5 tion on populations under-represented in cog-  
6 nitive literature, such as poor, rural, and minor-  
7 ity populations; and

8 (E) make recommendations regarding ways  
9 to coordinate engagement with researchers and  
10 stakeholders from universities, industry, public  
11 health organizations, State and local govern-  
12 ments, elementary and secondary educational  
13 organizations, and non-profit organizations to  
14 ensure that research, information, and best  
15 practices relating to the disruption of regular  
16 cognitive processes associated with COVID-19  
17 infection, including long-term COVID-19, are  
18 shared among such entities.

19 (2) COMPLETION.—The study required under  
20 paragraph (1) shall be completed by not later than  
21 the date that is 16 months after the date of the en-  
22 actment of this Act.

23 (b) REPORTS.—

24 (1) BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—Upon  
25 completion of the study under subsection (a), the

1 National Academies shall transmit to the Director  
2 and Congress a report on such study.

3 (2) BY THE DIRECTOR.—Not later than three  
4 months after receipt of the report under paragraph  
5 (1), the Director shall transmit to Congress a sum-  
6 mary of the Director’s plans, if any, to implement  
7 the recommendations of the National Academies  
8 contained in such report.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-  
11 tor to carry out this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2023,  
12 to remain available through fiscal year 2025, of which  
13 \$1,000,000 is authorized to carry out the study and  
14 produce the reports under section 5.