

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7180

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

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## 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—

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

3           (2) the term “National Academies” means the  
4 National Academies of Science, Engineering, and  
5 Medicine; and

6           (3) the term “eligible entity” means an institu-  
7 tion of higher education (as such term is defined in  
8 section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
9 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) or a consortium composed of non-  
10 profit organizations and institutions of higher edu-  
11 cation.

12 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

13 Congress makes the following findings:

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

19           (2) Historical epidemiological perspectives sug-  
20 gest an association between exposure to general res-  
21 piratory viruses and subsequent disruption of reg-  
22 ular cognitive processes.

23           (3) Early research suggests that one in three  
24 individuals diagnosed with a COVID–19 infection

1 experiences a disruption of regular cognitive proc-  
2 esses within six months of such diagnosis.

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

8 (5) The National Science Foundation has a  
9 deep history of supporting interdisciplinary, basic re-  
10 search that spans the social, behavioral, and funda-  
11 mental biological sciences and paves the way for sci-  
12 entific advancements.

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

14 The Director shall award grants to eligible entities,  
15 including through the RAPID funding mechanism, on a  
16 competitive, merit-reviewed basis to support interdiscipli-  
17 nary research on the disruption of regular cognitive proc-  
18 esses associated with both short-term and long-term  
19 COVID–19 infections, including with respect to children  
20 and adolescents. Such research may include the following:

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

1           (2) Analysis of findings on the disruption of  
2 regular cognitive processes associated with COVID–  
3 19 infection, including the development of predictive  
4 theoretical frameworks to guide future research.

5           (3) Development of physical and conceptual  
6 tools needed to evaluate cognition, emotion, and neu-  
7 ral structure and function of the brain as a con-  
8 sequence of a COVID–19 infection, and the potential  
9 relevance of such infection to the disruption of reg-  
10 ular cognitive processes.

11          (4) Studies on the relevance of psychological  
12 and psychosocial factors, including major disruptions  
13 of physical health, mental health, and economic sta-  
14 bility associated with the COVID–19 pandemic, on  
15 the disruption of regular cognitive processes, includ-  
16 ing an identification and evaluation of such factors.

17          (5) Any other activities the Director determines  
18 will support interdisciplinary research and collabora-  
19 tion on the disruption of regular cognitive processes  
20 associated with COVID–19 infection, including with  
21 respect to children and adolescents.

22 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON THE DISRUPTION**  
23 **OF COGNITIVE PROCESSES ASSOCIATED**  
24 **WITH COVID–19 INFECTION.**

25 (a) STUDY.—

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

7           (A) review the research literature and iden-  
8 tify research gaps regarding Federal programs  
9 and activities with roles in addressing both  
10 short-term and long-term consequences associ-  
11 ated with COVID–19 infection;

12           (B) assess the necessity of establishing  
13 causal inference approaches into research on  
14 the impacts of COVID-19 infection on cognitive  
15 processes to determine reverse causation;

16           (C) evaluate and make recommendations  
17 regarding the coordination of research and data  
18 collection, including with respect to children  
19 and adolescents, to identify the disruption of  
20 regular cognitive processes associated with  
21 COVID–19 infection, including long-term  
22 COVID-19;

23           (D) evaluate impacts of COVID-19 infec-  
24 tion on populations under-represented in cog-

1           nitive literature, such as poor, rural, and minor-  
2           ity populations; and

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

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

18          (b) REPORTS.—

19                (1) BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—Upon  
20                completion of the study under subsection (a), the  
21                National Academies shall transmit to the Director  
22                and Congress a report on such study.

23                (2) BY THE DIRECTOR.—Not later than three  
24                months after receipt of the report under paragraph  
25                (1), the Director shall transmit to Congress a sum-

1       mary of the Director's plans, if any, to implement  
2       the recommendations of the National Academies  
3       contained in such report.

4 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5       There is authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-  
6       tor to carry out this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2023,  
7       to remain available through fiscal year 2025, of which  
8       \$1,000,000 is authorized to carry out the study and  
9       produce the reports under section 5.

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