

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1612

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a commission on urotrauma.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2011

Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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 direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a commission  
on urotrauma.

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. COMMISSION ON UROTRAUMA.**

4       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In order to continue and ex-  
5       pand the study of urotrauma conducted by the Secretary  
6       of Defense in 2011, subject to the availability of appro-  
7       priations for such purpose, the Secretary shall establish  
8       a commission to be known as the “Commission on

1 Urotrauma” (in this section referred to as the “Commis-  
2 sion”).

3 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,  
4 the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary  
5 of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health and  
6 Human Services.

7 (c) DUTIES.—The Commission shall conduct a study  
8 on urotrauma among members of the Armed Forces and  
9 veterans, including—

10 (1) an analysis of the incidence, duration, mor-  
11 bidity rate, and mortality rate of urotrauma;

12 (2) an analysis of the social and economic costs  
13 and effects of urotrauma;

14 (3) with respect to the Department of Defense  
15 and Department of Veterans Affairs, an evaluation  
16 of the facilities, access to private facilities, resources,  
17 personnel, and research activities that are related to  
18 the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of  
19 urotrauma;

20 (4) an evaluation of programs (including such  
21 biological, behavioral, environmental, and social pro-  
22 grams) that improve the prevention or treatment of  
23 urotrauma;

24 (5) a long-term plan for the use and organiza-  
25 tion of the resources of the Federal Government to

1 improve the prevention and treatment of urotrauma;  
2 and

3 (6) updates to any study on urotrauma con-  
4 ducted by the Secretary of Defense in 2011.

5 (d) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 (1) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—In addition to the  
7 ex officio members described in paragraph (2), the  
8 Committee shall be composed of 19 members as fol-  
9 lows:

10 (A) Sixteen members appointed by the Sec-  
11 retary of Defense.

12 (B) One member appointed by the Sec-  
13 retary of Health and Human Services from  
14 among officers or employees of the National In-  
15 stitute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney  
16 Diseases whose primary interest is in the field  
17 of urotrauma.

18 (C) The Chief of the Department of Sur-  
19 gery of Walter Reed National Military Medical  
20 Center.

21 (D) The Chief Medical Director of the De-  
22 partment of Veterans Affairs.

23 (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The nonvoting, ex  
24 officio members of the Commission are as follows:

25 (A) The Surgeon General of the Navy.

1 (B) The Surgeon General of the Army.

2 (C) The Surgeon General of the Air Force.

3 (D) The Medical Officer of the Marine  
4 Corps.

5 (E) The Director of the National Institutes  
6 of Health.

7 (F) The Director of the National Institute  
8 of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

9 (G) The Director of the Division of Kid-  
10 ney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases of the  
11 National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive  
12 Kidney Diseases.

13 (H) The Director of the National Institute  
14 of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

15 (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—In appointing members  
16 under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary of Defense  
17 shall appoint individuals with experience related to—

18 (A) studying or researching urotrauma;

19 (B) preventing or treating urotrauma; or

20 (C) suffering from urotrauma.

21 (4) TERM.—Each member shall be appointed  
22 for the life of the Commission.

23 (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission  
24 shall be filled in the manner in which the original  
25 appointment was made.

1 (6) PAY.—

2 (A) Except as provided in subparagraph  
3 (C), members of the Commission shall serve  
4 without pay.

5 (B) Except as provided in subparagraph  
6 (C), members of the Commission who are full-  
7 time officers or employees of the United States  
8 may not receive additional pay, allowances, or  
9 benefits by reason of their service on the Com-  
10 mission.

11 (C) Each member shall receive travel ex-  
12 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-  
13 ence, in accordance with applicable provisions  
14 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,  
15 United States Code.

16 (7) QUORUM.—A majority of members of the  
17 Commission shall constitute a quorum but a lesser  
18 number may hold hearings.

19 (8) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Defense  
20 shall designate a member as the chairperson of the  
21 Committee.

22 (9) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at  
23 the call of the chairperson.

24 (e) STAFF.—

1           (1) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have a  
2           director who shall be appointed by the chairperson.

3           (2) STAFF.—Subject to rules prescribed by the  
4           Commission, the chairperson may appoint additional  
5           personnel as the chairperson considers appropriate.

6           (3) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE  
7           LAWS.—The director and staff of the Commission  
8           shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title  
9           5, United States Code, governing appointments in  
10          the competitive service, and shall be paid in accord-  
11          ance with the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-  
12          chapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to  
13          classification and General Schedule pay rates.

14          (4) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Subject to  
15          rules prescribed by the Commission, the chairperson  
16          may procure temporary and intermittent services  
17          under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

18          (5) STAFF TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-  
19          quest of the chairperson, the head of any Federal  
20          department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable  
21          basis, any of the personnel of that department or  
22          agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out  
23          its duties under this section.

24          (f) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

1           (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commis-  
2           sion may, for the purpose of carrying out this sec-  
3           tion, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places,  
4           take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commis-  
5           sion considers appropriate. The Commission may ad-  
6           minister oaths or affirmations to witnesses appear-  
7           ing before it.

8           (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any  
9           member or agent of the Commission may, if author-  
10          ized by the Commission, take any action which the  
11          Commission is authorized to take by this section.

12          (3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commis-  
13          sion may secure directly from any department or  
14          agency of the United States information necessary  
15          to enable it to carry out this section. Upon request  
16          of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of  
17          that department or agency shall furnish that infor-  
18          mation to the Commission.

19          (4) MAILS.—The Commission may use the  
20          United States mails in the same manner and under  
21          the same conditions as other departments and agen-  
22          cies of the United States.

23          (5) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—  
24          Upon the request of the Commission, the Adminis-  
25          trator of General Services shall provide to the Com-

1 mission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative  
2 support services necessary for the Commission to  
3 carry out its responsibilities under this section.

4 (g) REPORTS.—

5 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year  
6 after the date on which the members are appointed  
7 under subsection (d)(1), the Commission shall sub-  
8 mit to the appropriate congressional committees an  
9 interim report on the study conducted under sub-  
10 section (c).

11 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than two years  
12 after the date on which the members are appointed  
13 under subsection (d)(1), the Commission shall sub-  
14 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a  
15 final report on the study conducted under subsection  
16 (c), including any recommendations the Commission  
17 considers appropriate to improve the prevention and  
18 treatment of urotrauma among members of the  
19 Armed Forces and veterans.

20 (h) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
21 on the date that is 60 days after the date on which the  
22 Commission submits the final report under subsection  
23 (g)(2).

24 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:



1           (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
2       mittees” means—

3           (A) the Committees on Armed Services of  
4       the House of Representatives and Senate; and

5           (B) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of  
6       the House of Representatives and Senate.

7           (2) The term “urotrauma” means injury to the  
8       urinary tract (including the kidneys, ureters, urinary  
9       bladder, urethra, and female and male genitalia)  
10      from a penetrating, blunt, blast, thermal, chemical,  
11      or biological cause.

12       (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13           (1) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to  
14      be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000  
15      for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2015.

16           (2) OFFSET.—The amount otherwise author-  
17      ized to be appropriated for operation and mainte-  
18      nance, Defense-wide, for the Office of the Secretary  
19      of Defense for each of fiscal years 2012 through  
20      2015 is reduced by \$1,000,000.

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