To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense
to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed
Forces in the treatment of severe combat injuries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
MARCH 2, 2017
Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL
To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Sec-
retary of Defense to use only human-based methods for
training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment
of severe combat injuries, 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 “Battlefield Excellence
5 through Superior Training Practices Act” or the “BEST
6 Practices Act”.
7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
8 Congress makes the following findings:
(1) The Department of Defense has made impressive strides in the development and use of methods of medical training and troop protection, such as the use of tourniquets and improvements in body armor, that have led to decreased battlefield fatalities.

(2) The Department of Defense uses more than 8,500 live animals each year to train physicians, medics, corpsmen, and other personnel methods of responding to severe battlefield injuries.

(3) The civilian sector has almost exclusively phased in the use of superior human-based training methods for numerous medical procedures currently taught in military courses using animals.

(4) Human-based medical training methods such as simulators replicate human anatomy and can allow for repetitive practice and data collection.

(5) According to scientific, peer-reviewed literature, medical simulation increases patient safety and decreases errors by healthcare providers.

(6) The Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and other entities of the Department of Defense have taken significant steps to develop methods to replace live animal-based training.
(7) According to the report by the Department of Defense titled “Final Report on the use of Live Animals in Medical Education and Training Joint Analysis Team”, published on July 12, 2009—

(A) validated, high-fidelity simulators were to have been available for nearly every high-volume or high-value battlefield medical procedure by the end of 2011, and many were available as of 2009; and

(B) validated, high-fidelity simulators were to have been available to teach all other procedures to respond to common battlefield injuries by 2014.

(8) The Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills of the Air Force exclusively uses human-based training methods in its courses and does not use animals.

(9) In 2013, the Army instituted a policy forbidding non-medical personnel from participating in training courses involving the use of animals.

(10) In 2013, the medical school of the Department of Defense, part of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, replaced animal use within its medical student curriculum.
(11) The Coast Guard announced in 2014 that it would reduce by half the number of animals it uses for combat trauma training courses but stated that animals would continue to be used in courses designed for Department of Defense personnel.

(12) Effective January 1, 2015, the Department of Defense replaced animal use in six areas of medical training, including Advanced Trauma Life Support courses and the development and maintenance of surgical and critical care skills for field operational surgery and field assessment and skills tests for international students offered at the Defense Institute of Medical Operations.

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO USE HUMAN-BASED METHODS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL TRAINING.

(a) In General.—Chapter 101 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 2017. Use of human-based methods for certain medical training

“(a) Combat Trauma Injuries.—(1) Not later than October 1, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall develop, test, and validate human-based training methods for the purpose of training members of the armed forces in
the treatment of combat trauma injuries with the goal of replacing live animal-based training methods.

“(2) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Secretary—

“(A) shall only use human-based training methods for the purpose of training members of the armed forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries; and

“(B) may not use animals for such purpose.

“(b) Exception for particular commands and training methods.—(1) The Secretary may exempt a particular command, particular training method, or both, from the requirement for human-based training methods under subsection (a)(2) if the Secretary determines that human-based training methods will not provide an educationally equivalent or superior substitute for live animal-based training methods for such command or training method, as the case may be.

“(2) Any exemption under this subsection shall be for such period, not more than one year, as the Secretary shall specify in granting the exemption. Any exemption may be renewed (subject to the preceding sentence).

“(c) Annual reports.—(1) Not later than October 1, 2018, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the development and implementation of human-based
training methods for the purpose of training members of
the armed forces in the treatment of combat trauma inju-
ries under this section.

“(2) Each report under this subsection on or after
October 1, 2022, shall include a description of any exemp-
tion under subsection (b) that is in force at the time of
such report, and a current justification for such exemp-
tion.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘combat trauma injuries’ means
severe injuries likely to occur during combat, includ-
ing—

“(A) hemorrhage;

“(B) tension pneumothorax;

“(C) amputation resulting from blast in-
jury;

“(D) compromises to the airway; and

“(E) other injuries.

“(2) The term ‘human-based training methods’
means, with respect to training individuals in med-
ical treatment, the use of systems and devices that
do not use animals, including—

“(A) simulators;

“(B) partial task trainers;

“(C) moulage;
“(D) simulated combat environments;
“(E) human cadavers; and
“(F) rotations in civilian and military trauma centers.
“(3) The term ‘partial task trainers’ means training aids that allow individuals to learn or practice specific medical procedures.”.
(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:
“2017. Use of human-based methods for certain medical training.”.