

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1827

To prohibit the National Institutes of Health from conducting or supporting certain gain-of-function research, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. GALLAGHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To prohibit the National Institutes of Health from conducting or supporting certain gain-of-function research, 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 “Pausing Enhanced  
5 Pandemic Pathogen Research Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. NO CONDUCT OR SUPPORT BY NIH OF GAIN-OF-**  
2 **FUNCTION RESEARCH.**

3 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act  
4 (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 404P. GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH.**

7 “(a) PROHIBITION.—During the period ending on  
8 March 30, 2028, the National Institutes of Health shall  
9 not conduct or support, directly or indirectly, including  
10 through subgrants, any gain-of-function research.

11 “(b) LIMITATION.—This section does not apply to  
12 characterization or testing of any naturally occurring in-  
13 fluenza virus or coronavirus, unless the characterization  
14 or testing could increase pathogenicity or transmissibility.

15 “(c) GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH DEFINED.—In  
16 this section, the term ‘gain-of-function research’ means  
17 any research that could enhance the transmissibility,  
18 virulence, or pathogenicity of any pathogen (whether or  
19 not classified as a pathogen of pandemic potential) or non-  
20 pathogen agent in a way that could result in one or more  
21 of the following:

22 “(1) The pathogen or agent becoming mod-  
23 erately or highly transmissible, virulent, or patho-  
24 genic in human populations.

25 “(2) The pathogen or agent causing significant  
26 morbidity or mortality in humans.

1           “(3) The pathogen or agent posing a severe  
2           threat to public health, the capacity of public health  
3           systems, or the national security of the United  
4           States.”.

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