

Calendar No. 5

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 81

To provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 25, 2023

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

JANUARY 26, 2023

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

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 “Viral Gain-of-Function
5 Research Moratorium Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS**
2 **FOR INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH INSTI-**
3 **TUTES CONDUCTING GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RE-**
4 **SEARCH.**

5 (a) DEFINITION OF GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RE-
6 SEARCH.—In this section, the term “gain-of-function re-
7 search” means any research that—

8 (1) could confer attributes to influenza, MERS,
9 or SARS viruses such that the virus would have en-
10 hanced pathogenicity or transmissibility in any orga-
11 nism; or

12 (2) involves methods that could enhance poten-
13 tial pandemic pathogens or related risky research
14 with potentially dangerous pathogens.

15 (b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
16 sion of law, no research grants supported by Federal funds
17 may be awarded to institutions of higher education, or
18 other research institutes, that are conducting gain-of-func-
19 tion research.

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