

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4704

To direct the Director of the Defense Health Agency to conduct a study on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among military rotary wing pilots and aviation support personnel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2025

Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BACON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. FINSTAD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Director of the Defense Health Agency to conduct a study on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among military rotary wing pilots and aviation support personnel, 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 “Rotary-wing Operator
5 Toxic Occupational Research Act” or the “ROTOR Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON PREVALENCE AND MORTALITY OF CAN-**
2 **CER AMONG MILITARY ROTARY-WING PILOTS**
3 **AND AVIATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL.**

4 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Director of the Defense
5 Health Agency, in coordination with the Directors of the
6 National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer In-
7 stitute, shall conduct a study among covered individuals
8 in two phases as provided by this section.

9 (b) INITIAL PHASE OF STUDY.—

10 (1) GOAL OF INITIAL PHASE.—Under the initial
11 phase of the study under subsection (a), the Direc-
12 tor of the Defense Health Agency shall determine,
13 for each cancer specified in paragraph (2), whether
14 there is an increased prevalence of, or increased rate
15 of mortality caused by, such cancer for covered indi-
16 viduals as compared to similarly aged individuals in
17 the general population (or, in the case of the cancer
18 specified in paragraph (2)(B), for female covered in-
19 dividuals as compared to similarly aged women in
20 the general population).

21 (2) CANCERS SPECIFIED.—The cancers speci-
22 fied in this paragraph are the following:

23 (A) Brain cancer.

24 (B) Breast cancer.

25 (C) Colon and rectal cancer.

26 (D) Kidney cancer.

1 (E) Lung cancer.

2 (F) Melanoma.

3 (G) Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

4 (H) Ovarian cancer.

5 (I) Pancreatic cancer.

6 (J) Prostate cancer.

7 (K) Testicular cancer.

8 (L) Urinary bladder cancer.

9 (3) REPORT ON INITIAL PHASE.—Not later
10 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
11 Act, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall
12 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
13 a report on the findings of the phase of the study
14 under this subsection.

15 (c) SECOND PHASE OF STUDY.—

16 (1) GOAL OF SECOND PHASE.—If, pursuant to
17 the phase of the study under subsection (b), the Di-
18 rector of the Defense Health Agency determines
19 there is an increased prevalence of, or increased
20 mortality rate caused by, any cancer specified in
21 subsection (b)(2) among covered individuals (or,
22 with respect to the cancer specified in subsection
23 (b)(2)(B), among female covered individuals), the
24 Director shall conduct a second phase of the study
25 to—

1 (A) identify any carcinogenic toxin or other
2 hazardous material associated with the oper-
3 ation of military rotary-wing aircraft, such as
4 fumes, fuels, or other liquids;

5 (B) identify any operating environment, in-
6 cluding frequencies or electromagnetic fields, in
7 which covered individuals may have received ex-
8 cess exposure to non-ionizing radiation in the
9 course of such operation, including non-ionizing
10 radiation associated with airborne, ground, or
11 shipboard radars; and

12 (C) identify potential exposures as a result
13 of military service by covered individuals to car-
14 cinogenic toxins or other hazardous materials
15 not associated with the operation of military ro-
16 tary-wing aircraft (such as exposure to burn
17 pits, toxins in contaminated water, or toxins
18 embedded in soils), including by determining—

19 (i) the locations of such service; and

20 (ii) any duties of covered individuals
21 unrelated to such operation and associated
22 with an increased prevalence of, or in-
23 creased mortality rate caused by, cancer.

24 (2) REPORT ON SECOND PHASE.—If the Direc-
25 tor of the Defense Health Agency conducts the

1 phase of the study under this subsection, not later
2 than one year after the date on which the Director
3 submits the report under subsection (b)(3), the Di-
4 rector shall submit to the appropriate congressional
5 committees a report on the findings of such phase.

6 (3) DATA FORMAT.—The Director of the De-
7 fense Health Agency shall format any data resulting
8 from the phase of the study under this subsection
9 consistent with the formatting of data under the
10 Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results pro-
11 gram, including by disaggregating such data by race,
12 gender, and age.

13 (d) SOURCES OF DATA.—In conducting the study
14 under this section, the Director of the Defense Health
15 Agency shall use data from—

16 (1) the database of the Surveillance, Epidemi-
17 ology, and End Results program;

18 (2) the study conducted under section 750 of
19 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
20 Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 3716);
21 and

22 (3) any other study previously conducted by the
23 Secretary of a military department that the Director
24 determines relevant for purposes of this section.

25 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

3 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
4 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
5 House of Representatives; and

6 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
7 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
8 ate.

9 (2) The term “covered Armed Force” means
10 the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space
11 Force.

12 (3) The term “covered individual” means any
13 individual who—

14 (A) served in a covered Armed Force on or
15 after February 28, 1961, as an aircrew member
16 of a rotary-wing aircraft (including as a pilot or
17 aviation support personnel), without regard to
18 the status, position, rank, or grade of the indi-
19 vidual within such crew; and

20 (B) receives health care benefits under
21 chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

22 (4) The term “Surveillance, Epidemiology, and
23 End Results program” means the program of the
24 National Cancer Institute referred to in section

- 1 399B(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (40
- 2 U.S.C. 280e(d)(1)), or any successor program.

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