

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5132

To establish a cross-functional team in the Department of Defense for the emerging threat relating to anomalous health incidents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 31, 2021

Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WENSTRUP) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish a cross-functional team in the Department of Defense for the emerging threat relating to anomalous health incidents.

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 “Havana Syndrome
5 Servicemember Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TEAM FOR EMERGING THREAT**
7 **RELATING TO ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCI-**
8 **DENTS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Using the authority provided
10 under section 911(c) of the National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 10 U.S.C. 111 note), the Secretary of Defense shall establish a cross-functional team to address national security challenges posed by anomalous health incidents (as defined by the Secretary) and ensure that individuals affected by anomalous health incidents receive timely and comprehensive health care and treatment pursuant to title 10, United States Code, or other provisions of law administered by the Secretary, for symptoms consistent with an anomalous health incident.

(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the cross-functional team established under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) to assist the Secretary of Defense with addressing the challenges posed by anomalous health incidents and any other efforts regarding such incidents that the Secretary determines necessary; and

(2) to integrate the efforts of the Department of Defense regarding anomalous health incidents with the efforts of other departments or agency of the Federal Government regarding such incidents.

(c) TEAM LEADER.—The Secretary shall select an Under Secretary of Defense to lead the cross-functional team and a senior military officer to serve as the deputy to the Under Secretary so selected.

1 (d) DETERMINATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES
2 AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary, in coordination
3 with the Director of National Intelligence and acting
4 through the cross-functional team established under sub-
5 section (a), shall determine the roles and responsibilities
6 of the organizations and elements of the Department of
7 Defense with respect to addressing anomalous health inci-
8 dents, including the roles and responsibilities of the Office
9 of the Secretary of Defense, the intelligence components
10 of the Department, Defense agencies, and the Department
11 of Defense field activities, the military departments, com-
12 batant commands, and the Joint Staff.

13 (e) BRIEFINGS.—

14 (1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary shall provide to the appropriate congressional
17 committees a briefing on—

18 (A) the progress of the Secretary in estab-
19 lishing the cross-functional team; and

20 (B) the progress the team has made in—

21 (i) determining the roles and respon-
22 sibilities of the organizations and elements
23 of the Department of Defense with respect
24 the cross-functional team; and

1 (ii) carrying out the duties under sub-
2 section (b).

3 (2) UPDATES.—Not later than 75 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, and once
5 every 45 days thereafter during the one-year period
6 following such date of enactment, the Secretary shall
7 provide to the appropriate congressional committees
8 a briefing containing updates with respect to the ef-
9 forts of the Department regarding anomalous health
10 incidents.

11 (f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
12 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
13 sional committees” means—

14 (1) the congressional defense committees; and
15 (2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
16 ligence of the House of Representatives and the Se-
17 lect Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

○