

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as innovative therapies centers of excellence, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GALLEGO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as innovative therapies centers of excellence, 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 “Innovative Therapies
5 Centers of Excellence Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DESIGNA-**
2 **TION OF INNOVATIVE THERAPIES CENTERS**
3 **OF EXCELLENCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new section:

7 **“§ 7330E. Innovative therapies centers of excellence**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—

9 “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary, upon the
10 recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health,
11 shall designate not fewer than five medical facilities
12 of the Department as the locations for innovative
13 therapies centers of excellence.

14 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION.—Sub-
15 ject to the availability of appropriations for such
16 purpose, the Secretary shall establish and operate
17 innovative therapies centers of excellence at the loca-
18 tions designated pursuant to paragraph (1).

19 “(b) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES.—
20 In designating medical facilities as centers of excellence
21 under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary, upon the rec-
22 ommendation of the Under Secretary for Health, shall as-
23 sure appropriate geographic distribution of such facilities.

24 “(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION.—

25 “(1) HIGHEST COMPETITIVE STANDARDS.—The
26 Secretary may not designate a medical facility as a

1 location for a center under subsection (a)(1) unless
2 the peer review panel established under subsection
3 (d) has determined under that subsection that the
4 proposal submitted by such facility as a location for
5 a new center under subsection (a)(1) is among those
6 proposals that meet the highest competitive stand-
7 ards of scientific and clinical merit.

8 “(2) OTHER ELEMENTS.—The Secretary may
9 not designate a medical facility as a location for a
10 center under subsection (a)(1) unless the Secretary,
11 upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary
12 for Health, determines that the facility has, or may
13 reasonably be anticipated to develop, each of the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(A) An arrangement with—

16 “(i) an accredited medical school that
17 provides education and training in innova-
18 tive therapies and with which the facility is
19 affiliated under which residents receive
20 education and training in use of innovative
21 therapies to treat covered conditions;

22 “(ii) an accredited school of psychi-
23 atry; and

24 “(iii) an accredited school of social
25 work.

1 “(B) The ability to attract the participa-
2 tion of scientists who are capable of ingenuity
3 and creativity in medical research efforts.

4 “(C) An advisory committee composed of
5 veterans and appropriate medical and research
6 representatives of the facility and of the affili-
7 ated school or schools to advise the directors of
8 the facility and such center on policy matters
9 pertaining to the activities of the center during
10 the period of the operation of such center.

11 “(D) The capability to conduct effectively
12 evaluations of the activities of such center.

13 “(E) The capability to coordinate (as part
14 of an integrated national system) education,
15 clinical, and research activities within all facili-
16 ties with such centers.

17 “(F) The capability to jointly develop a
18 consortium of providers with interest in treating
19 covered conditions with innovative therapies at
20 facilities of the Department without such cen-
21 ters in order to ensure better access to state-of-
22 the-art diagnosis, care, and education for inno-
23 vative therapies throughout the medical system
24 of the Department.

1 “(G) The capability to develop a national
2 repository in the medical system of the Depart-
3 ment for the collection of data on health serv-
4 ices delivered to veterans seeking innovative
5 therapies.

6 “(d) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for
8 Health shall establish a panel to assess the scientific
9 and clinical merit of proposals that are submitted to
10 the Secretary for the establishment of centers under
11 this section.

12 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The membership of
14 the panel established under paragraph (1) shall
15 consist of experts in innovative therapies.

16 “(B) PERIOD OF SERVICE.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Members of the
18 panel established under paragraph (1)
19 shall serve for a period of not more than
20 two years, except as specified in clause (ii).

21 “(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Of the
22 members first appointed to the panel es-
23 tablished under paragraph (1), one-half
24 shall be appointed for a period of three
25 years and one-half shall be appointed for a

1 period of two years, as designated by the
2 Under Secretary for Health at the time of
3 appointment.

4 “(3) DUTIES.—The panel established under
5 paragraph (1) shall review each proposal submitted
6 to the panel by the Under Secretary for Health and
7 shall submit its views on the relative scientific and
8 clinical merit of each such proposal to the Under
9 Secretary.

10 “(4) APPLICATION OF LAWS REGARDING FED-
11 ERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The panel estab-
12 lished under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to
13 chapter 10 of title 5.

14 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
16 after the date of the enactment of this section, and
17 annually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Health
18 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
19 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
20 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the
21 activities of the centers established under subsection
22 (a) during the period covered by the report.

23 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under
24 paragraph (1) shall include—

1 “(A) a summary of activities carried out by
2 the centers established under subsection (a)
3 during such period;

4 “(B) an identification of key findings made
5 at such centers during such period;

6 “(C) recommendations to improve the de-
7 livery of innovative therapies to veterans; and

8 “(D) such other matters as the Under Sec-
9 retary determines relevant.

10 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
12 appropriated \$30,000,000 for each fiscal year to
13 support the research and education activities of the
14 centers established under subsection (a).

15 “(2) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—

16 The Under Secretary for Health shall allocate to the
17 centers established under subsection (a) from other
18 amounts appropriated generally for the medical serv-
19 ices account and medical and prosthetics research
20 account of the Department, as appropriate, such
21 amounts as the Under Secretary determines appro-
22 priate.

23 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) The term ‘covered condition’ means any of
25 the following:

1 “(A) Anxiety.

2 “(B) Bipolar disorder.

3 “(C) Chronic pain.

4 “(D) Depression.

5 “(E) Parkinson’s disease.

6 “(F) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

7 “(G) Substance use disorder.

8 “(H) Such other conditions as may be des-
9 ignated by the Under Secretary for Health.

10 “(2) The term ‘innovative therapy’ means any
11 of the following:

12 “(A) 3,4-Methylenedioxy-methamphet-
13 amine.

14 “(B) 5-Methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine.

15 “(C) Ibogaine.

16 “(D) Ketamine.

17 “(E) Psilocybin.

18 “(F) Such other therapies as may be des-
19 ignated by the Under Secretary for Health.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
22 after the item relating to section 7330D the following new
23 item:

“7330E. Innovative therapies centers of excellence.”.