

Long COVID Research Moonshot Act of 2024

Introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders

Where We Stand Today: Long COVID is a public health crisis we cannot ignore. In America today, about 22 million adults and 1 million children have Long COVID. These cases are expected to rise, as Long COVID symptoms can impact anyone who has been previously exposed to COVID-19 regardless of age or severity of the initial infection. In addition to the health impacts, it is estimated that two to four million Americans are out of work due to Long COVID.

While some steps are being taken by Federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the Department of Health and Human Service' Office of Long COVID, additional research funding and coordination is needed. We must aggressively pursue potential treatments. We must also educate health professionals on how to adequately diagnose Long COVID, better understand the risks associated with it, and identify potential therapeutic options.

This Bill Will:

- **Provide \$1 billion in mandatory funding per year for 10 years to NIH** to respond to the Long COVID crisis with the urgency it demands.
- **Create a new Long COVID research program** within the NIH to better understand Long COVID, and related conditions, and the best ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat them.
- **Require the NIH to develop a public Long COVID Research Plan** for conducting, supporting, and coordinating Long COVID research.
- **Require NIH to establish a new grant process** to accelerate clinical trials related to Long COVID. These grants would be reviewed more quickly than traditional grants and prioritize funding for studies that test non-behavioral therapeutic and preventive interventions in patients with Long COVID, including repurposing existing pharmaceutical interventions.
- **Establish a Long COVID research advisory board at NIH** made up of scientists, health care providers, and patients with lived experience with Long COVID and other related conditions to provide advice on research funding.
- **Require NIH to establish a Long COVID database** for the collection and dissemination of de-identified patient data to make it available to a wider array of researchers studying Long COVID.
- **Fund Long COVID surveillance** to better understand the burden and severity of Long COVID and related conditions, and provide support to people living with Long COVID, including people with disabilities.
- **Require any new treatments developed by NIH be reasonably priced** so they are accessible to people who need them.
- **Create an electronic form for patients** to identify potential treatments for Long COVID.
- **Require federal entities to provide continuing education and support** to patients, providers, and the public about the ongoing risks of Long COVID, as well as how to identify and address it.
- **Fund multidisciplinary Long COVID clinics** that provide access to comprehensive, coordinated care for individuals with Long COVID, especially those in underserved populations that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of Long COVID.
- **Develop best practices** for clinical care delivery and integration of clinical and social services for Long COVID.