

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4805

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the long-term physiological and psychological effects of military aviation veterans who served as aviators in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2025

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself and Ms. GOODLANDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the long-term physiological and psychological effects of military aviation veterans who served as aviators in the Armed Forces, 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 “Warrior Impact from  
5 Neurological and G-Force Stress Act” or the “WINGS  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF MILITARY**  
2 **FLIGHT OPERATIONS ON BRAIN HEALTH AND**  
3 **MENTAL HEALTH.**

4 (a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall  
5 conduct a comprehensive, longitudinal study to assess the  
6 long-term physiological and psychological effects of mili-  
7 tary aviation, including with respect to high-performance  
8 flight and G-force exposure, on military aviators.

9 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The study under subsection (a)  
10 shall examine, at a minimum—

11 (1) the relationship between cumulative flight  
12 hours and exposure to G-forces and incidents of  
13 traumatic brain injury, sub-concussive trauma, or  
14 cognitive impairment;

15 (2) long-term mental health outcomes, including  
16 with respect to incidence of depression, anxiety dis-  
17 orders, and post-traumatic stress disorder, in mili-  
18 tary aviators compared to other members of the  
19 Armed Forces;

20 (3) the correlation between aviation-related  
21 physiological stress and suicide risk among aviators;

22 (4) the prevalence of neurodegenerative condi-  
23 tions (including chronic traumatic encephalopathy,  
24 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Parkinson’s dis-  
25 ease) in current and former military aviators;

1           (5) the effect of helmet design, oxygen systems,  
2           flight suit pressurization, and other cockpit environ-  
3           mental factors on neurocognitive health;

4           (6) current screening and diagnostic procedures  
5           used to detect early signs of neurological injury or  
6           psychological distress in military aviators; and

7           (7) recommended improvements in the moni-  
8           toring, prevention, and treatment of aviation-related  
9           brain trauma and mental health challenges.

10          (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under  
11 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

12           (1) the Secretary of Defense;

13           (2) the Surgeons General of the military de-  
14           partments;

15           (3) the Director of the Defense Health Agency;  
16           and

17           (4) relevant academic institutions and federally  
18           funded research and development centers with exper-  
19           tise in aviation medicine, neuroscience, and psychi-  
20           atry.

21          (d) PILOT HEALTH REGISTRY.—The Secretary of  
22 Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain a centralized  
23 Military Aviator Neurohealth Registry that includes—

1           (1) anonymized health data of military aviators  
2 voluntarily participating in the study under sub-  
3 section (a);

4           (2) flight exposure metrics, including cumu-  
5 lative hours and G-force profiles;

6           (3) relevant health outcomes tracked over time;  
7 and

8           (4) a mechanism for longitudinal follow-up with  
9 the military aviators.

10 (e) REPORTS.—

11           (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year  
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
13 retary shall submit to Congress an interim report on  
14 the study under subsection (a), including any pre-  
15 liminary findings and recommendations.

16           (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than three years  
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
18 retary shall submit to Congress report on the study  
19 under subsection (a), including findings and rec-  
20 ommendations.

21 (f) MILITARY AVIATOR DEFINED.—In this section,  
22 the term “military aviator” means a veteran who, as a  
23 member of the Armed Forces, including a commissioned  
24 officer or a warrant officer—

1           (1) had been designated as a pilot, naval avi-  
2           ator, or aircrew member by the Secretary of the  
3           military department concerned;

4           (2) operated, or was regularly assigned as a  
5           flight crew member aboard, high-performance,  
6           crewed, fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft designed  
7           for tactical, training, or reconnaissance missions, in-  
8           cluding—

9                   (A) fighter aircraft (such as the F-35, F/  
10                   A-18, F-22, and F-16 aircraft);

11                   (B) attack aircraft (such as the A-10 and  
12                   AH-64 aircraft);

13                   (C) trainer jets (such as the T-7, T-38,  
14                   and T-45 aircraft); and

15                   (D) tiltrotor or high-speed rotary aircraft  
16                   (such as the V-22 aircraft);

17           (3) was subject to sustained or repeated G-  
18           forces during the routine execution of flight duties;  
19           and

20           (4) served in a role that may have included air-  
21           craft control, weapons employment, navigation, re-  
22           connaissance, or mission-specific operations requir-  
23           ing aircrew qualification and exposure to flight-re-  
24           lated physiological stressors.

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