

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all of those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all of those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

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 “COVID–19 Vaccine
5 Developers Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Researchers, scientists, doctors, epidemiolo-
2 gists, and others around the world have worked tire-
3 lessly and collaboratively to develop lifesaving vac-
4 cines to combat the coronavirus by reducing the like-
5 lihood of transmission, building immune resiliency,
6 avoiding hospitalizations, and reducing the likelihood
7 of death.

8 (2) Through the academic, research and ana-
9 lytic expertise of universities and their faculty, re-
10 searchers, and students, their efforts contributed to
11 providing valuable information to the public on the
12 severity of the coronavirus worldwide and, in some
13 cases, contributed to vaccine development.

14 (3) Several of the resulting vaccines represent
15 historic breakthroughs in biopharmaceutical tech-
16 nology, which are predicated on years of leading re-
17 search conducted in laboratories and hospitals that
18 benefit from the significant financial investment of
19 United States taxpayers through the Department of
20 Health and Human Services, the National Institutes
21 of Health, including the National Institute of Allergy
22 and Infectious Diseases, and the Biomedical Ad-
23 vanced Research and Development Authority

24 (4) These professionals worked under record
25 timelines to develop safe, effective vaccines dem-

1 onstrated in trials and granted emergency use au-
2 thorization by the Food and Drug Administration,
3 outpacing the typical vaccine development timeframe
4 of 5 to 10 years and beating the previous record by
5 3 years.

6 (5) These remarkable achievements in medical
7 science will have positive implications for future vac-
8 cine development, helping to combat new viruses,
9 leading to improvements in health and well-being.

10 (6) The tremendous efforts in vaccine develop-
11 ment can be celebrated and attributed to building di-
12 verse teams, including the notable efforts of many
13 individuals across the planet.

14 (7) Vaccines authorized for emergency use in
15 the United States benefitted greatly from global co-
16 operation, strategic partnerships, and collaboration
17 with publicly funded agencies and research capabili-
18 ties of the academic community.

19 (8) As a result of the collaborative efforts, peo-
20 ple around the world are benefitting from the ad-
21 ministration of vaccines, although work remains to
22 support governments around the world in ensuring
23 vaccines are equitably distributed.

24 (9) The United States, including through co-
25 operation with bilateral and multilateral partner-

1 ships, can help scale up manufacturing and distribu-
2 tion to all corners of the globe.

3 (10) The vaccines developed are contributing to
4 the safety of people of the United States, rebuilding
5 the United States economy, and the reunion of fami-
6 lies.

7 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

8 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
9 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
10 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
11 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
12 gold medal of appropriate design in recognition of all those
13 whose efforts led to the successful development of vaccines
14 that received emergency use authorizations to respond to
15 the coronavirus.

16 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
17 awards under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treas-
18 ury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike
19 a gold medal described in that subsection with suitable
20 emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by
21 the Secretary.

22 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold
24 medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given

1 to the Smithsonian Institution where the medal shall
2 be—

3 (A) available for display, as appropriate;

4 and

5 (B) made available for research.

6 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
7 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
8 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
9 available for—

10 (A) the purpose of education, research, and
11 the encouragement of science, technology, engi-
12 neering, and math professions through the
13 Smithsonian Science Education Center; and

14 (B) on display at a physical Smithsonian
15 museum or on loan, as appropriate, so that the
16 medal may be displayed elsewhere.

17 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

18 Under regulations that the Secretary may promul-
19 gate, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
20 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price
21 sufficient to cover the cost of the medals, including labor,
22 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
3 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
4 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
8 items.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
10 **SALE.**

11 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
13 Public Enterprise Fund such sums as may be necessary
14 to pay for the costs of the medal authorized under section
15 3.

16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
18 4 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public En-
19 terprise Fund.