

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RUSH introduced the following bill; which was 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) The public-private partnership, Operation  
2 Warp Speed, sought to develop, manufacture, and  
3 ship 300,000,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines  
4 around the United States.

5           (2) This effort would not have been possible  
6 without researchers, scientists, doctors, epidemiolo-  
7 gists, and others around the world who have worked  
8 tirelessly and collaboratively to develop lifesaving  
9 vaccines to combat the coronavirus by reducing the  
10 likelihood of transmission, building immune resil-  
11 iency, avoiding hospitalizations, and reducing the  
12 likelihood of death.

13           (3) Through the academic, research and ana-  
14 lytic expertise of universities and their faculty, re-  
15 searchers, and students, their efforts contributed to  
16 providing valuable information to the public on the  
17 severity of the coronavirus worldwide and, in some  
18 cases, contributed to vaccine development.

19           (4) Several of the resulting vaccines represent  
20 historic breakthroughs in biopharmaceutical tech-  
21 nology, which are predicated on years of leading re-  
22 search conducted in laboratories and hospitals that  
23 benefit from the significant financial investment of  
24 United States taxpayers through the Department of  
25 Health and Human Services, the National Institutes

1 of Health, including the National Institute of Allergy  
2 and Infectious Diseases, and the Biomedical Ad-  
3 vanced Research and Development Authority.

4 (5) As a response to COVID–19, Congress pro-  
5 vided \$47,600,000,000 for the effort to support the  
6 private sector’s research and development into effec-  
7 tive technologies, the scale-up of manufacturing ca-  
8 pacity for promising vaccine candidates, and the dis-  
9 tribution of vaccines that received emergency use au-  
10 thORIZATION by the Food and Drug Administration.

11 (6) These professionals worked under record  
12 timelines to develop safe, effective vaccines dem-  
13 onstrated in trials and granted emergency use au-  
14 thORIZATION by the Food and Drug Administration. It  
15 shattered the typical timeline for vaccine develop-  
16 ment and production from over a decade to less than  
17 12 months.

18 (7) The first vaccine trial volunteers who lined  
19 up to have shots administered in their arms paved  
20 the way for emergency use authorization by the  
21 Food and Drug Administration and the hundreds of  
22 millions of people of the United States that have  
23 since been vaccinated.

24 (8) These remarkable achievements in medical  
25 science will have positive implications for future vac-

1 vaccine development, helping to combat new viruses,  
2 leading to improvements in health and well-being.

3 (9) The tremendous efforts in vaccine develop-  
4 ment can be celebrated and attributed to building di-  
5 verse teams, including the notable efforts of many  
6 individuals across the planet.

7 (10) Vaccines authorized for emergency use in  
8 the United States benefitted greatly from global co-  
9 operation, strategic partnerships, and collaboration  
10 with publicly funded agencies and research capabili-  
11 ties of the academic community.

12 (11) As a result of the collaborative efforts,  
13 people around the world are benefitting from the ad-  
14 ministration of vaccines, although work remains to  
15 support governments around the world in ensuring  
16 vaccines are equitably distributed.

17 (12) The United States, including through co-  
18 operation with bilateral and multilateral partner-  
19 ships, can help scale up manufacturing and distribu-  
20 tion to all corners of the globe.

21 (13) Operation Warp Speed successfully laid  
22 the groundwork for reopening the United States  
23 economy, contributing to the safety of the people of  
24 the United States, the reunion of families, and is the  
25 greatest medical achievement in modern times.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

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

10 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
11 award under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury  
12 (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike  
13 a gold medal described in that subsection with suitable  
14 emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by  
15 the Secretary.

16 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—After the award of the gold  
18 medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given  
19 to the Smithsonian Institution where the medal shall  
20 be—

21 (A) available for display, as appropriate;

22 and

23 (B) made available for research.

24 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
25 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should

1 make the gold medal received under this Act avail-  
2 able for—

3 (A) the purpose of education, research, and  
4 the encouragement of science, technology, engi-  
5 neering, and math professions through the  
6 Smithsonian Science Education Center; and

7 (B) display elsewhere, particularly at other  
8 locations or events associated with Operation  
9 Warp Speed or COVID-19 vaccine develop-  
10 ment.

11 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell  
13 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under sec-  
14 tion 3 at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the medals,  
15 including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and  
16 overhead expenses.

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

21 (c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
22 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
23 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
24 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under  
25 this Act.

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 section  
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

8 **SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

9 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
10 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
11 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
12 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
13 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
14 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
15 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
16 vote on passage.