



# H.R. 1612: Bill to Establish a National Commission on Urotrauma

## Background

Genitourinary organ injuries (urotrauma) comprise up to 10% of battlefield injuries and are increasing in number and complexity for today's warfighters. There have been significant strides in funding the treatment and rehabilitation of the more common mechanisms of war-injury such as extremity injury and amputations, as well as the neuropsychological wounds of war including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury. Injuries to the genitourinary organs, though less common, are no less physically and psychologically debilitating. Despite their profound impact, they have not received the same focus from a policy and care-delivery system perspective. In order to study urotrauma with a view toward improving prevention, first line care, reconstruction, and the coordinated chronic management of the functional and fertility issue resulting from urotrauma, the AUA, with the sponsorship of Congressman Brett Guthrie, presents HR 1612.

## Bill Summary

The bill establishes a National Commission on Urotrauma. The U.S. Department of Defense will be the lead agency and work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Urotrauma Commission will:

1. Conduct a comprehensive study of the current state of knowledge of the prevention, incidence, morbidity and mortality, and social and economic impact of urotrauma.
2. Evaluate the public and private facilities and resources (including trained personnel and research activities) for the diagnosis, acute and chronic management, and research in urotrauma.
3. Identify programs (including biological, behavioral, environmental and social) in which, and the means by which, improvement in the management of urotrauma can be accomplished.

In addition, the Commission will develop and recommend a long-range plan for the use and organization of national resources, especially within the federal health programs, to effectively deal with urotrauma.

The Commission will be composed of 16 individuals representing the urotrauma medical and patient community, as well as ex-officio government representatives. The Secretary of Defense will appoint a Chair from the appointed members. In general, the ex-officio members are non-voting, but there are several voting ex-officio members, including the Chief Medical Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs and a National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) appointee with primary interest in urotrauma.

The bill authorizes, subject to annual appropriation, \$4,000,000 in the aggregate for fiscal years 2012 through 2015.