

# Taxpayer Research and Coronavirus Knowledge (TRACK) Act

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To date, Congress has appropriated approximately \$7 billion for the specific purpose of researching and developing COVID-19 treatments and vaccines. Additional monies are likely to be appropriated in future relief packages—all with no strings attached and no proper accounting of to whom funds are distributed. Further, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent at least \$700 million on coronavirus research prior to the pandemic, and some of the drugs currently being explored as COVID-19 treatments and vaccines received prior federal investments, including Gilead’s treatment remdesivir and Moderna’s vaccine candidate.

What little information we have concerning federal spending on pharmaceutical R&D is scattered across multiple databases, none of which are user-friendly or contain complete information about where taxpayer dollars are going. It can be even more difficult to determine when the government has ownership over any of the key patents for a drug. As any investor would require, American taxpayers should have an appropriate accounting of where their money has gone.

## **The *TRACK Act of 2020* would require a single database of federal biomedical investment information for COVID-19, including:**

- Recipients, amounts, timeline, and expenditure breakdown, including prior and ongoing funding commitments for research, development, and manufacturing
- Non-financial support, including use of government facilities, equipment, and personnel
- Associated patents and patent applications, including any federal ownership
- Associated clinical trial data
- Associated tax benefits under the R&D and orphan drug credits as well as tax benefits for donated samples to patient assistance programs
- Full terms of the agreements made between the federal government and a manufacturer

Pharmaceutical companies are receiving historical funding contracts, including \$1 billion to AstraZeneca and half a billion each to Johnson & Johnson and Moderna. Transparency about how these monies will be used and the terms of related agreements is critical. This legislation is an essential tool for effective oversight and accountability of taxpayers’ investments.

To endorse, cosponsor, or learn more about this legislation, please contact Afton Cissell on Rep. Doggett’s staff at [afton.cissell@mail.house.gov](mailto:afton.cissell@mail.house.gov).