



## **H.R. 6076, *TREAT Astronauts Act***

Sponsored by Space Subcommittee Chairman Brian Babin (R-Texas)

The *To Research, Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act (TREAT) Astronauts Act* establishes a spaceflight occupational healthcare program for former American astronauts. This Act ensures that our brave men and woman that venture into space receive support for medical issues associated with their service.

### **Summary**

- The Act authorizes the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) to provide former astronauts (including management astronauts) and former payload specialists medical monitoring and diagnosis of psychological and medical conditions potentially associated with and treatment of conditions associated with their space flight. This authorization is limited to former astronauts (including management astronauts) and former payload specialists, as NASA's existing statutory authority provides occupational healthcare for active duty astronauts. The Act builds upon existing NASA research authorities and NASA's Lifetime Surveillance of Astronaut Health (LSAH) program.
- The Act is fiscally responsible, establishing NASA as a secondary payer to existing obligations of the United States or any third party. Former astronauts (including management astronauts) and former payload specialists may already receive benefits or have access to occupational healthcare benefits from other government agencies, such as the Veterans Administration, the Department of Defense, the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, or from private entities. The Act also directs NASA to provide a cost-estimate and annual accounting of the program.
- For elderly and infirmed former astronauts and former payload specialists who may be unable to travel to NASA facilities, the Act also provides for a medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological and medical spaceflight related conditions from local healthcare providers.
- Finally, the Act furthers NASA's scientific research on the effects of human space flight, providing additional incentives for former astronauts (including management astronauts) and payload specialists to provide spaceflight related medical data.