

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4375

To provide for a study on broadening participation in certain National Science Foundation research and education programs, to collect data on Federal research grants to science agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. KNIGHT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To provide for a study on broadening participation in certain National Science Foundation research and education programs, to collect data on Federal research grants to science agencies, and for other purposes.

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 “STEM Research and
5 Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN STEM PROGRAM**
2 **EFFECTIVENESS STUDY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Na-
5 tional Science Foundation shall submit a report to Con-
6 gress on the effectiveness of all National Science Founda-
7 tion research and education programs for broadening the
8 participation of women and other historically underrep-
9 resented individuals in STEM studies and careers, includ-
10 ing—

11 (1) development or identification of perform-
12 ance metrics to evaluate such programs;

13 (2) information on student outcomes using all
14 available data, including dropout rates, enrollment in
15 graduate programs, internships or apprenticeships,
16 and employment;

17 (3) identification of any data gaps for evalu-
18 ating the effectiveness and outcomes of National
19 Science Foundation programs to broaden participa-
20 tion; and

21 (4) recommendations for maintaining, trans-
22 lating, and disseminating outcomes data for STEM
23 programs funded by the National Science Founda-
24 tion.

25 (b) DEFINITION OF STEM.—In this section, the
26 term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in section

1 2 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of
2 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

3 **SEC. 3. COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DATA ON FED-**
4 **ERAL RESEARCH GRANTS.**

5 (a) COLLECTION OF DATA.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal science agency
7 shall collect standardized record-level annual infor-
8 mation on demographics, primary field, award type,
9 review rating, budget request, funding outcome, and
10 awarded budget for all applications for merit-re-
11 viewed research and development grants to institu-
12 tions of higher education and Federal laboratories
13 supported by that agency.

14 (2) UNIFORMITY AND STANDARDIZATION.—The
15 Director shall establish a policy to ensure uniformity
16 and standardization of the data collection required
17 under paragraph (1).

18 (3) RECORD-LEVEL DATA.—

19 (A) REQUIREMENT.—On an annual basis,
20 beginning with the deadline under subpara-
21 graph (C), each Federal science agency shall
22 submit to the Director of the National Science
23 Foundation record-level data collected under
24 paragraph (1) in the form required by such Di-
25 rector.

1 (B) PREVIOUS DATA.—As part of the first
2 submission under subparagraph (A), each Fed-
3 eral science agency, to the extent practicable,
4 shall submit comparable record-level data for
5 the 5 years preceding the deadline under sub-
6 paragraph (C).

7 (C) DEADLINE.—The deadline under this
8 paragraph is not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act.

10 (b) REPORTING OF DATA.—The Director of the Na-
11 tional Science Foundation shall publish statistical sum-
12 mary data collected under this section, disaggregated and
13 cross-tabulated demographically and by years since com-
14 pletion of doctoral degree, including in conjunction with
15 the National Science Foundation’s report required by sec-
16 tion 37 of the Science and Technology Equal Opportuni-
17 ties Act (42 U.S.C. 1885d; Public Law 96–516).

18 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
20 the Director of the Office of Science and Technology
21 Policy.

22 (2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Fed-
23 eral laboratory” has the meaning given that term in
24 section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Inno-
25 vation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

1 (3) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term
2 “Federal science agency” means any Federal agency
3 with at least \$100,000,000 in research and develop-
4 ment expenditures in fiscal year 2017.

5 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
6 term “institution of higher education” has the
7 meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the
8 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

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