

ADVANCING RESEARCH TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACT

DECEMBER 12, 2019.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4704]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4704) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

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I. AMENDMENT

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.
- (2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death among people in the United States and the second-leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 34.
- (3) The National Science Foundation funds research that is improving our basic understanding of factors with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment.
- (4) Despite progress in mental health research, current gaps exist in scientific understanding and basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive, perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental factors with potential relevance to suicide.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.

(a) The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the National Institute on Mental Health where appropriate, shall award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of higher education (or consortia of such institutions) to support multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment, including but not limited to—

- (1) basic understanding of human social behavior;
- (2) the neural basis of human cognition;
- (3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic, social, cultural and biological processes related to human development across the lifespan;
- (4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor, and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in typical human behavior; and
- (5) basic understanding of the relevance of drug and alcohol abuse.

(b) To promote the development of early career researchers, in awarding funds under subsection (a) the National Science Foundation shall encourage applications submitted by early career researchers, including doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers.

II. PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to provide for multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

III. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

Suicide is a major public health concern. According to the Centers for Disease Control, suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people between ages 10 and 34 and the fourth leading cause of death for individuals between ages 35 and 54. In 2017, suicide (47,173) accounted for more than twice as many fatalities than homicide (19,510). Over the last few decades, research has improved our understanding of the complex and multifaceted risk factors and environmental circumstances that contribute to suicidal thoughts and behavior, but more research is needed to inform efforts to address these risks and save lives. The *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*—introduced on October 16, 2019 by Representatives McAdams, Gonzalez, Johnson, and Balderson—au-

thorizes the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support research on the science of suicide.

IV. COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AND VOTES

On October 16, 2019, Representatives McAdams, Gonzalez, Johnson, and Balderson introduced H.R. 4704, the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*. The bill was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

On November 14, 2019, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology met to consider H.R. 4704. Representative Wexton offered an amendment to include research on the relevance of drug and alcohol abuse. *The amendment was agreed to by a voice vote.* Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson moved that the Committee favorably report the bill, H.R. 4704, as amended, to the House with the recommendation that the bill be approved. *The motion was agreed to by a voice vote.*

V. SUMMARY OF MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

H.R. 4704 directs the Director of the NSF to support multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide, including potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

VI. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS (BY TITLE AND SECTION)

Section 1. Short title

Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act.

Section 2. Findings

Highlights the need for research on the science of suicide.

Section 3. National Science Foundation research

Authorizes the National Science Foundation to support research with relevance to suicide.

VII. COMMITTEE VIEWS

The intent of the Committee is that NSF support multidisciplinary, fundamental research on the complex, multifaceted factors with potential relevance to suicide, including research on the relevance of genetic factors. In carrying out this Act, NSF should consider broadening existing research activities and expanding collaboration with other agencies in this area.

VIII. COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of new budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

IX. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, December 11, 2019.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
*Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4704, the Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Janani Shankaran.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4704, Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on November 14, 2019			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 4704 would direct the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award grants to institutions of higher education for research on the science of suicide, including prevention and treatment. Using information from the NSF, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget because the agency already awards grants to study the science of suicide. In recent years, the agency has awarded a few million dollars annually for such research.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Janani Shankaran. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

X. FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

H.R. 4704 contains no unfunded mandates.

XI. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

XII. STATEMENT ON GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c) of House Rule XIII, the goal of H.R. 4704 is to provide for research on the science of suicide.

XIII. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

H.R. 4704, does not create any advisory committees.

XIV. DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H.R. 4704 establishes or reauthorizes a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

XV. EARMARK IDENTIFICATION

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 4704 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

XVI. APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that H.R. 4704 does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104–1).

XVII. STATEMENT ON PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

XVIII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

This legislation does not amend any existing Federal statute.

XIX. PROCEEDINGS OF THE FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

MARKUPS:
H.R. 4704, ADVANCING RESEARCH
TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACT;
H.R. 4990, ELECTION TECHNOLOGY
RESEARCH ACT; AND
H.R. 4979, RURAL STEM EDUCATION ACT

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Serial No. CP: 116-11

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C O N T E N T S

November 14, 2019

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MARKUPS:
**H.R. 4704, ADVANCING RESEARCH
 TO PREVENT SUICIDE ACT;
 H.R. 4990, ELECTION TECHNOLOGY
 RESEARCH ACT; AND
 H.R. 4979, RURAL STEM EDUCATION ACT**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
 Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson [Chairwoman of the Committee] presiding.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Good morning. The Committee will come to order. Without objection, the Chair is authorized to declare recess at any time. Pursuant to Committee rule 2(e) and House rule XI, the Chair announces that she may postpone roll call votes.

Pursuant to notice, the Committee meets to consider the following measures: H.R. 4704, *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*; H.R. 4990, *Election Technology Research Act*; and H.R. 4979, *Rural STEM Education Act*.

Welcome to this markup. And I think we have three excellent bills. I want to thank Representatives McAdams, Gonzalez, and Balderson for introducing our first bill we're considering, H.R. 4704, the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*.

Suicide is a major public health concern and a leading cause of death in America. Tragically, suicide is the second-leading cause of death of young people between the ages of 10 and 34. While our understanding of suicide has increased over the last 50 years, more research is needed.

This bill directs the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support research to improve our understanding of the complex risk factors that contribute to suicidal thoughts and behavior and inform efforts to save lives. This is a critically important issue, and I thank my colleague from Utah for his efforts to address the problem.

We will next consider H.R. 4990, the *Election Technology Research Act*. A year from now, America will go to the polls to elect a President, select their Representatives in Congress, and make many other important choices at the local and State level. Transparent, fair, and secure elections are the bedrock of our democracy.

While it is human behavior that governs the integrity of elections, the technologies used in elections are a source of vulnerability.

Unfortunately, recent elections have been marred by several incidences involving outdated, malfunctioning voting machines. In addition, online voting registration databases in a number of States have been subject to attempted cyberattacks. These incidents have increased Americans' concern about the integrity of our elections.

The *Election Technology Research Act* makes critical investments at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Science Foundation to support cybersecurity research and modernization of our voting systems. I want to thank Representatives Sherrill and Gonzalez for introducing this good bipartisan bill. It is an important piece of the larger national discussion about ensuring the integrity of our elections.

The last bill we are considering today is H.R. 4979, the *Rural STEM Education Act*. I want to thank Ranking Member Lucas, Representative McAdams, and Representative Baird for introducing H.R. 4979. As Members of the Science Committee, we know that diversity in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) is important. We need talented minds from all backgrounds at the table to ensure we can continue to innovate and compete globally.

Unfortunately, students living in rural communities are often overlooked in efforts to address STEM diversity. This legislation directs the National Science Foundation to support much-needed research and program development to help address the challenges rural communities face in providing high-quality STEM education. I urge my colleagues to support its passage out of Committee.

I look forward to considering each of these good bipartisan bills today and quickly moving them to the full House.

[The prepared statement of Chairwoman Johnson follows:]

Good morning and welcome to today's markup of what I think are three excellent bills.

I want to thank Representatives McAdams, Gonzalez, and Balderson for introducing our first bill we are considering: H.R. 4704, the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*.

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I look forward to considering each of these good bipartisan bills today, and quickly moving them to the full House.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. I now recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. Lucas, for his opening remarks.

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Chairwoman Johnson, for holding this markup. Today, we'll consider three bipartisan bills.

The first is H.R. 4704, the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*. I want to thank the bill's sponsors, Mr. McAdams and Mr. Gonzalez, for working together to address this critical issue.

Suicide was the 10th-leading cause of death in the United States in 2016, and the second-leading cause of death among people ages 10 to 34. For our Nation's veterans, it is an epidemic. We lose 17 veterans in America a day to suicide.

Despite these rising numbers, there are still major gaps in our fundamental understanding of the underpinnings of suicide and how to prevent it. According to the experts, much more research is needed to understand how people respond to stress, how social influence impacts suicide, and what makes some people more resilient than others.

This bill will support basic research at the National Science Foundation to improve our understanding of such factors. Basic research in this area will help inform better interventions and better outcomes. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Next, we'll consider H.R. 4990, the *Election Technology Research Act*. I am proud to join with Representatives Sherrill and Gonzalez and Chairwoman Johnson as a cosponsor of this bill. The integrity and security of elections is fundamental to democracy in the United States, and it should not be a partisan issue. This bill makes appropriate steps to update research activities at the National Science Foundation and NIST to promote the security and modernization of U.S. voting systems. The bill also establishes the Election Systems Center of Excellence at NIST to foster collaborations between NIST, universities, and State and local officials to address security challenges.

The U.S. Constitution vests the responsibility of administering elections with State and local governments. However, the Federal Government has an important role to play in providing guidance and assistance to States on election systems. The Federal Government can and should also work closely with State and local officials to deal with foreign and domestic cyber threats. This bill provides the research tools to do that without imposing costly or burdensome mandates on the States.

I appreciate Chairwoman Johnson and her staff for working with us to produce a good bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Finally, we'll consider H.R. 4979, the *Rural STEM Education Act*, a bill I introduced with Representative McAdams, Chairwoman Johnson, and Representative Baird. I'll speak more on the bill when we take it up in a few minutes.

I once again want to thank Chairwoman Johnson for holding today's markup of these three bipartisan bills, and I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lucas follows:]

Thank you, Chairwoman Johnson, for holding this mark-up. Today we will consider three bipartisan bills.

The first is H.R. 4704, the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*. I want to thank the bill's sponsors, Mr. McAdams and Mr. Gonzalez, for working together to address this critical issue.

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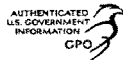
I once again want to thank Chairwoman Johnson for holding today's markup of these three bipartisan bills, and I yield back.

H.R. 4704

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you. We will now consider H.R. 4704, *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*, and the clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 4704, a bill to direct the Director of the National Science—

[The bill follows:]



116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4704

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2019

Mr. MCADAMS (for himself, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BALDERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

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 “Advancing Research
5 to Prevent Suicide Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is
4 on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per
5 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

6 (2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death
7 among people in the United States and the second-
8 leading cause of death for young people between the
9 ages of 15 and 34.

10 (3) The National Science Foundation funds re-
11 search that is improving our basic understanding of
12 factors with potential relevance to suicide, including
13 potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

14 (4) Despite progress in mental health research,
15 current gaps exist in scientific understanding and
16 basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive,
17 perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental fac-
18 tors with potential relevance to suicide.

19 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

20 (a) The Director of the National Science Foundation,
21 in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes
22 of Health and the Director of the National Institute on
23 Mental Health where appropriate, shall award grants on
24 a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of high-
25 er education (or consortia of such institutions) to support
26 multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential rel-

1 evance to suicide, including potential relevance to preven-
2 tion and treatment, including but not limited to—

3 (1) basic understanding of human social behav-
4 ior;

5 (2) the neural basis of human cognition;

6 (3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic,
7 social, cultural, and biological processes related to
8 human development across the lifespan; and

9 (4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor,
10 and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in
11 typical human behavior.

12 (b) To promote the development of early career re-
13 searchers, in awarding funds under subsection (a) the Na-
14 tional Science Foundation shall encourage applications
15 submitted by early career researchers, including doctoral
16 students or postdoctoral researchers.

○

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Without objection, the bill is considered as read and open to amendment at any point.

I recognize Mr. McAdams to speak on this bill.

Mr. MCADAMS. Thank you, Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas. I'm proud today that our Committee is advancing my bipartisan legislation to address the suicide crisis affecting our country.

Nationwide, public health experts are tracking a troubling and persistent rise in the rate of death by suicide, a 30 percent increase from 2000 to 2016. Suicide is now the second-leading cause of death among Americans ages 15 to 24 and the first cause for young Utahans in this age range.

In fact, when I served as the Mayor of Salt Lake County, eight teenagers died by suicide in only one high school within the span of a single school year in Herriman, Utah. Last week, I convened a stakeholder panel in Utah with providers and advocates. One constituent shared with me at that roundtable that in this school year alone her school district has had three students die by suicide. The loss of these young lives and the pain their loved ones feel have galvanized sorely needed action in our community to assess how we're helping those in crisis and how we can break down stigma. I'm proud to add our efforts to work already underway by the Utah legislature, school officials, and researchers in my State.

Understanding the factors that put people at risk of an attempt or suicide is a multifaceted question for sure, not to mention the new issues and questions posed by economic and technological change that are reshaping how we live, how we connect, and how we communicate. How we understand social relations, our environment, and their connection to human behavior connects us to understanding what puts people at risk of suicide and how we can support them.

I'm proud to have worked with my friend, Congressman Anthony Gonzalez, to develop the legislation that we're considering today, the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act* to research these important questions. Our legislation directs the National Science Foundation, a cornerstone of our Nation's scientific efforts, to support fundamental research into key fields that affect our understanding of suicide: Social behavior, cognition, development, and behavior.

I'm proud that our bill has been endorsed by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the American Psychological Association, and I really thank their staff for insight.

So thank you again, Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, for your support on this important priority for Utah and for America. And I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I yield back.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Well, thank you.

Does anyone wish to be recognized? Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you, Madam Chair, for organizing the markup and for the recognition.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4704, the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*. I'm proud to join my friend, Congressman McAdams, in introducing this legislation, and I thank him for his leadership to reduce suicide rates.

The bill directs the NSF to support multidisciplinary research on the root causes of suicide across the United States. Suicide rates are continuing to rise across all demographics, and my home State of Ohio has some particularly concerning statistics. Across all ages, the suicide rate in Ohio increased nearly 24 percent. And according to a report by the Ohio Alliance for Innovation and Population Health, we have seen suicide rates among children 14 and under increase by 80 percent since 2008. Nationally, the veteran suicide rate stands at 1.5 times the rate for nonveteran adults with 6,139 veterans dying from suicide in 2017 alone.

We all know we have a mental health crisis in this country, but for me and for my constituents the suicide problem is a personal one, impacting far too many close to home. Too many times I have met with a group of constituents to discuss a trade- or veteran-related policy issue, but the biggest problem on their mind has been the growing suicide threat.

This has resonated with me in a variety of ways. As many on the Committee know, I was a professional football player at one point in my life, and in the last calendar year alone I've had three different former teammates take their own life. This really resonated with me again when I was talking to someone at the Ohio Farm Bureau, and she explained that finding a way to help prevent farmer suicides has become a major initiative with the organization.

Just this past Monday during Veterans Day we spent an hour and a half at a meeting talking about the terrible impact of suicides in our veteran community. The topic was not supposed to be specifically veteran suicides, but when we got into the issues with our veteran group, that became all that everybody wanted to talk about. So it is truly hitting every single sector of our society.

And last year, a high school near my district suffered what CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) calls a suicide contagion when six students killed themselves within a 6-month frame. That is why we need to address this issue. That is why I've introduced this bill alongside Congressman McAdams.

The *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act* will work to address suicide from all angles. The research done under this bill will look at social and economic factors, the use of technology, and the stigma associated with mental health conditions. I sincerely believe that if we want to make a dent on the issue at hand, we can't get by flinging spaghetti at the wall to see what sticks. Our children, our veterans, and our neighbors can't wait that long. It is imperative that we dig in and put in the work to find the roots of this crisis. The more we know about the fundamental causes, the better equipped we will be as a country to tackle the problem head on.

Thank you again to Congressman McAdams, Chairwoman Johnson, and Ranking Member Lucas, for bringing this bill forward. I'm encouraged by the bipartisanship already shown on this initiative, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this bill signed into law. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you very much.

Any other recognition desired? Ms. Horn.

Ms. HORN. Madam Chairwoman, I move to strike the last word.

I want to say thank you, Madam Chairwoman, for taking up this bill and to my colleagues, Mr. McAdams and Mr. Gonzalez. This issue is, as they have mentioned, critically important across our Nation and in my district in particular as well. And it's not a partisan issue, just as many of the other issues that this Committee tackles. It is, however, a serious and urgent matter. Far too many lives are lost because Americans are suffering in silence. And Oklahoma is one of the top States impacted by suicide, as has been mentioned, is the second-leading cause of death for teens and young adults, and we rank well above the national average for suicide rates among our Nation's veterans. Stories that we heard last weekend in a townhall are heartbreaking and unnecessary.

We can make a difference to reduce these alarming rates when we choose to take action, and I support H.R. 4704 because it takes an important step in the right direction. By advancing multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, we can better get to the root causes and understand how to prevent it.

Again, I'm grateful for my colleagues, Congressmen McAdams and Gonzalez, as well as this entire Committee for coming together on practical approaches that will help us reduce suicide rates. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you. Ms. Sherrill.

Ms. SHERRILL. I move to strike the last word. Thank you, Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas, for holding today's markup, and thank you, Representatives McAdams and Gonzalez, for introducing the *Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act*, which I'm proud to cosponsor. This bill directs the National Science Foundation to support research to further our understanding of suicide.

The United States is experiencing an alarming rise in suicide, and tragically, these documented increases are most dramatic among our Nation's young people. Suicide is currently the second-leading cause of death among teenagers. A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control found that suicide rates among children 10 to 14 years old increased 56 percent from 2007 to 2017. In New Jersey alone there were 100 documented suicides among 15- to 24-year-olds in 2017, the highest number in over 2 decades.

Over the last year, my community in north Jersey has had to mourn the loss of several young people to suicide. Children took their own lives. They left behind parents, siblings, friends, classmates, teachers, and communities who are now grappling with their loss. We need to figure out what's driving these disturbing trends and do everything we can to address them. This bill will help advance our understanding of evidence-based ways to prevent suicide and to help those who struggle with thoughts of self-harm.

Thank you so much for bringing it up today, and I yield back.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you very much. Any further requests for time?

Hearing none, we will now proceed with the amendments in the order on the roster.

First amendment is Ms. Wexton.

Ms. WEXTON. Thank you, Madam Chair. I have an amendment at the desk.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. The clerk will report the amendment.

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The CLERK. Amendment No. 1, amendment to H.R. 4704 offered
by Ms. Wexton of Virginia. Page 3, line 8, strike “and,” page 3, line
11—

[The amendment of Ms. Wexton follows:]

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AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4704
OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON OF VIRGINIA

Page 3, line 8, strike "and".

Page 3, line 11, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 3, after line 11, insert the following:

- 1 (5) basic understanding of the relevance of drug
- 2 and alcohol abuse.



Chairwoman JOHNSON. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading, and without objection, so ordered.

I recognize the gentlelady for 5 minutes to explain her amendment.

Ms. WEXTON. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, for yielding me time to explain this amendment.

And although he did not hesitate to take the opportunity to move to the second row and leave me all alone here in the first row, I do want to thank the gentleman from Utah, Mr. McAdams, for introducing this important bipartisan bill.

This amendment adds a research topic to the competitive grant program that this bill would create in the hopes of advancing research at the National Science Foundation on how drug and alcohol abuse relates to the science of suicide.

Studies show that drug and alcohol abuse is often associated with cases of suicide. Alcohol intoxication is involved in 22 percent of all suicides in the U.S. At least 25 percent of alcoholics and drug addicts die by or attempt suicide, and 90 percent of people who fall victim to suicide suffer from a substance abuse disorder, depression, or both. There is clearly a correlation between suicide, substance abuse, and mental health, and we must advance research in these areas to help the many men and women whose mental illness and/or substance abuse leads them to die by suicide.

Gaps exist in scientific understanding of the interaction between substance abuse and suicide, and my amendment would allow grant recipients to try to close those gaps by taking a deeper look at how drugs and alcohol affect a person's cognitive processing and brain function as it relates to suicide.

In my home State of Virginia, the rate of individuals dying by suicide has risen over the past 10 years. In 2017 alone, more than 1,100 people died by suicide in my Commonwealth. The numbers associated with suicide are disheartening, and we need legislation like the bill before us today to better understand the science behind suicide so that we can help those who might be contemplating it before it's too late. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill, and thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairwoman JOHNSON. Thank you.

Is there further discussion on the amendment?

The vote occurs then on the amendment.

All in favor, say aye.

Those opposed, no.

The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

Are there any other amendments?

If not, a reporting quorum being present, I move that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology report H.R. 4704, as amended, to the House with the recommendation that the bill be approved.

Those in favor of the motion will signify by saying aye.

Those opposed, no.

The ayes have it, and the bill is favorably reported.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table, and I ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make any

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necessary technical and conforming changes to the bill. Without objection, so ordered.

Members will have 2 subsequent calendar days in which to submit supplemental minority or additional views on the measure.

H.R. 4990

Chairwoman JOHNSON. We now will consider H.R. 4990, *Election Technology Research Act*. The clerk will report the bill.

The CLERK. H.R. 4990, a bill to direct the National Institute—
[The bill follows:]

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