

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4998

To establish and to expand partnerships that promote innovation and increase the economic and social impact of research by developing tools and resources to connect new scientific discoveries to practical uses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2010

Mr. HILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology

A BILL

To establish and to expand partnerships that promote innovation and increase the economic and social impact of research by developing tools and resources to connect new scientific discoveries to practical uses.

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. PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
5 Science Foundation shall carry out a program to award
6 merit-reviewed, competitive grants to institutions of higher
7 education to establish and to expand partnerships that
8 promote innovation and increase the economic and social

1 impact of research by developing tools and resources to
2 connect new scientific discoveries to practical uses.

3 (b) PARTNERSHIPS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for funding
5 under this section, an institution of higher education
6 must propose establishment of a partnership that—

7 (A) includes at least one private sector en-
8 tity; and

9 (B) may include other institutions of high-
10 er education, public sector institutions, and pri-
11 vate sector entities.

12 (2) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients
13 under this section, the Director shall give priority to
14 partnerships that include one or more institutions of
15 higher education that are among the 100 institu-
16 tions receiving, over the 3-year period immediately
17 preceding the awarding of grants, the highest
18 amount of research funding from the National
19 Science Foundation and at least one of the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (A) A minority serving institution.

22 (B) A primarily undergraduate institution.

23 (C) A 2-year college.

24 (c) PROGRAM.—Proposals funded under this section
25 shall seek to—

1 (1) increase the economic or social impact of
2 the most promising research at the institution or in-
3 stitutions of higher education that are members of
4 the partnership through knowledge transfer or com-
5 mercialization;

6 (2) increase the engagement of faculty and stu-
7 dents across multiple disciplines and departments,
8 including faculty and students in schools of business
9 and other appropriate non-STEM fields and dis-
10 ciplines in knowledge transfer activities;

11 (3) enhance education and mentoring of stu-
12 dents and faculty in innovation and entrepreneur-
13 ship through networks, courses, and development of
14 best practices and curricula;

15 (4) strengthen the culture of the institution or
16 institutions of higher education to undertake and
17 participate in activities related to innovation and
18 leading to economic or social impact;

19 (5) broaden the participation of all types of in-
20 stitutions of higher education in activities to meet
21 STEM workforce needs and promote innovation and
22 technology transfer; and

23 (6) build lasting partnerships with local and re-
24 gional businesses, local and State governments, and
25 other relevant entities.

1 (d) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—In selecting grant re-
2 cipients under this section, the Director shall also consider
3 the extent to which the applicants are able to demonstrate
4 evidence of institutional support for, and commitment
5 to—

6 (1) achieving the goals of the program as de-
7 scribed in subsection (c);

8 (2) expansion to a university-wide program if
9 the initial proposal is not for a university-wide pro-
10 gram; and

11 (3) sustaining any new innovation tools and re-
12 sources generated from funding under this program.

13 (e) LIMITATION.—No funds provided under this sec-
14 tion may be used to construct or renovate a building or
15 structure.

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