

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1891

To establish a position of Science Laureate of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BERA of California, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish a position of Science Laureate of the United States.

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 “Science Laureates of
5 the United States Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Scientific research and advancement has
2 driven success in the United States and global suc-
3 cess for centuries.

4 (2) Scientific research has saved, improved, and
5 extended lives, increased the standard of living, ex-
6 panded economic opportunity, and advanced human
7 understanding.

8 (3) Such research holds the promise of con-
9 tinuing this progress, protecting the environment,
10 creating jobs, growing the economy through innova-
11 tive ideas and discoveries, and generally advancing
12 all mankind.

13 (4) People in the United States can benefit
14 when scientific research is conducted and commu-
15 nicated in a transparent manner to better inform
16 citizens about the nature and status of such re-
17 search.

18 (5) Scientific education is a critical element of
19 preparing our Nation and our citizens for a tech-
20 nology-intensive future and ensuring that the United
21 States remains the world leader in innovation and
22 high-tech success.

23 (6) A spokesperson who can embody, dem-
24 onstrate, and articulate the importance and excite-
25 ment of scientific research and education will help

1 improve the current and future state of science to
2 the benefit of all people in the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENCE LAUREATES OF THE**
4 **UNITED STATES.**

5 (a) POSITION ESTABLISHED.—Congress recognizes
6 that science contributes to the economic prosperity and
7 general welfare of the United States, and that increasing
8 the public’s awareness about the sciences will increase
9 such benefits. Congress also recognizes that scientists who
10 are both accomplished in their fields and who foster the
11 public’s interest in science do a special service to the
12 United States. To honor their service and to further in-
13 crease the public’s awareness about the sciences, there is
14 established the position of Science Laureate of the United
15 States.

16 (b) APPOINTMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint
18 a Science Laureate on the basis of—

19 (A) merit, particularly the ability of an in-
20 dividual to—

21 (i) foster and enhance public aware-
22 ness and interest in science; and

23 (ii) provide ongoing significant sci-
24 entific contributions; and

1 (B) recommendations received from the
2 National Academy of Sciences, based on the
3 factors described in subparagraph (A).

4 (2) VARIETY OF SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES.—The
5 President shall strive to choose for the position of
6 Science Laureate of the United States individuals, in
7 different years, from different scientific disciplines,
8 including biology, physics, geosciences, astronomy,
9 mathematics, chemistry, and other science dis-
10 ciplines.

11 (3) NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS.—The Presi-
12 dent may, in exceptional circumstances, appoint
13 more than 1, but not more than 3 Science Laureates
14 to serve simultaneously in the position of Science
15 Laureate of the United States.

16 (c) DUTIES.—Each Science Laureate shall engage
17 the public, from time to time, to increase the public's
18 awareness about science. A Science Laureate is encour-
19 aged to continue the Science Laureate's scientific work.
20 The National Academy of Sciences shall facilitate the du-
21 ties of a Science Laureate.

22 (d) LIMITATION.—The Science Laureate position
23 shall not have the effect of duplicating or superseding the
24 role of the President's Science Advisor.

1 (e) TERM.—Each Science Laureate shall serve a 1-
2 year or 2-year term, as determined by the President. A
3 Science Laureate may be reappointed for additional terms.

4 (f) COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT.—

5 (1) COMPENSATION.—A Science Laureate shall
6 serve without pay and shall not be considered to be
7 a Federal employee based on such individual's ap-
8 pointment as a Science Laureate.

9 (2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL.—The Na-
10 tional Academy of Sciences may in its discretion
11 provide a Science Laureate with reimbursement for
12 travel expenses incurred while performing duties as
13 a Science Laureate, including per diem in lieu of
14 subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions
15 in the same manner as persons employed intermit-
16 tently in the Government service are allowed ex-
17 penses under section 5703 of title 5, United States
18 Code.

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