

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2587

To provide for Federal agencies and employees to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities in classrooms.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. KILMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for Federal agencies and employees to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) activities in classrooms.

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 “Planting STEM in
5 the Classroom Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United States has traditionally pro-
2 duced the world's leading innovators in the science,
3 technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

4 (2) Numerous studies show that STEM-related
5 innovations fueled more than half of the Nation's
6 economic growth over the past half century.

7 (3) The number of STEM-related jobs grew 3
8 times as fast as non-STEM-related jobs during the
9 past 10 years and is forecast to grow twice as fast
10 over the next decade.

11 (4) Recent reports on standardized testing show
12 United States students performing below average or
13 average in mathematics and science when compared
14 with their international peers.

15 (5) President Obama has established the goal
16 for the United States to have the highest proportion
17 of college graduates in the world by 2020, which will
18 require the Federal Government to work with edu-
19 cation partners to improve the quality of STEM
20 education at all levels to help increase the number
21 of well-prepared graduates with STEM degrees by
22 one-third over the next 10 years, resulting in an ad-
23 ditional 1 million graduates with STEM degrees.

24 (6) President Obama has called for recruiting
25 more teachers and mentors in the STEM fields to

1 better engage students, particularly young women
2 and minorities, and encourage them to pursue de-
3 grees and careers in the STEM fields so the United
4 States can maintain its competitiveness in the global
5 economy.

6 (7) The Federal Government employs and sup-
7 ports through research grants many of the world's
8 leading scientists, mathematicians, and engineers in
9 every State.

10 **SEC. 3. PROVIDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FED-**
11 **ERAL EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN STEM ACTIVI-**
12 **TIES.**

13 The Office of Personnel Management, in consultation
14 with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the
15 Department of Education, shall develop a policy to—

16 (1) increase volunteerism in STEM education
17 activities by encouraging Federal employees engaged
18 in STEM activities, including scientists, engineers,
19 and cybersecurity specialists engaged in nonmilitary
20 activities, from Federal agencies and the federally
21 funded research and development centers supported
22 by those agencies, to volunteer in STEM education
23 activities by providing administrative leave and sup-
24 port for such employees to engage in such vol-
25 unteerism; and

1 (2) support increased communication and part-
2 nerships between scientists and engineers from Fed-
3 eral science agencies conducting nonmilitary sci-
4 entific research and development, including scientists
5 and engineers of the federally funded research and
6 development centers supported by those agencies,
7 and elementary and secondary schools and teachers
8 through volunteerism in STEM education activities.

9 **SEC. 4. CONDUCTING OUTREACH TO UNDERREPRESENTED**
10 **COMMUNITIES.**

11 Each Federal science agency shall report to Congress
12 the approaches that it will take to conduct outreach de-
13 signed to promote widespread public understanding of ca-
14 reer opportunities in the STEM fields specific to the work-
15 force needs of that agency, including outreach to women,
16 Latinos, African-Americans, Native Americans, and other
17 students from groups underrepresented in STEM fields.

18 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT.**

19 Not later than June 1, 2014, and annually thereafter,
20 the Secretary of Education shall transmit a report to Con-
21 gress detailing—

22 (1) the number of volunteers and volunteer
23 hours resulting from this Act;

24 (2) the number of schools, teachers, and stu-
25 dents engaged thereby; and

- 1 (3) the methods of outreach used under this
- 2 Act to serve underrepresented communities.

