

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5819

To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that scientists are being funded at the age when they are most likely to make breakthroughs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2014

Mr. HARRIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that scientists are being funded at the age when they are most likely to make breakthroughs.

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 “Funding Scientists at
5 the Peak Age of Discovery Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FUNDING SCIENTISTS AT PEAK AGE OF DISCOVERY.**

7 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 283 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 404M. FUNDING SCIENTISTS AT PEAK AGE OF DIS-**
2 **COVERY.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall en-
4 sure that the median age of first-time researchers receiv-
5 ing grants in the R series from the institutes, centers, and
6 offices of the National Institutes of Health—

7 “(1) by January 1, 2019, is under 40 years of
8 age;

9 “(2) by January 1, 2022, is under 39 years of
10 age; and

11 “(3) by January 1, 2025, is under 38 years of
12 age.

13 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply
14 with respect to grants in the R series which are deter-
15 mined by the head of the respective institute, center, or
16 office to be within any of the following categories:

17 “(1) Small business innovation research.

18 “(2) Small business technology transfer.

19 “(3) Clinical trial planning.

20 “(c) DEFINITION.—In this section:

21 “(1) The term ‘first-time researcher’ means a
22 researcher who has not previously served as the
23 principal investigator for a research project sup-
24 ported by the National Institutes of Health through
25 a grant in the R series.

1 “(2) The term ‘R series’ refers the category of
2 grants that are designated by the National Institutes
3 of Health to be covered by—

4 “(A) the activity code relating to ‘research
5 projects’ (as such activity code is in effect on
6 the date of enactment of this section); or

7 “(B) any successor activity code.”.

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