

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 899

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2013

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## 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:

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

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

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

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

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

20          (6) A single spokesperson who can embody,  
21          demonstrate, and articulate the importance and ex-  
22          citement of scientific research and education will  
23          help improve the current and future state of science  
24          to the benefit of all people in the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENCE LAUREATES OF THE**  
2 **UNITED STATES.**

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

14 (b) APPOINTMENT.—

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

17 (A) merit, particularly the ability of an in-  
18 dividual to—

19 (i) foster and enhance public aware-  
20 ness and interest in science; and

21 (ii) provide ongoing significant sci-  
22 entific contributions; and

23 (B) recommendations received from the  
24 National Academy of Sciences, based on the  
25 factors described in subparagraph (A).

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

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

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

19          (d) LIMITATION.—The Science Laureate position  
20          shall not have the effect of duplicating or superseding the  
21          role of the President’s Science Advisor.

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

25          (f) COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT.—

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

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

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