

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2889

To amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2010 to
authorize an Innovation Corps.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2016

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the National Science Foundation Authorization
Act of 2010 to authorize an Innovation Corps.

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 “American Innovators
5 and Entrepreneurs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION’S INNOVATION** 7 **CORPS.**

8 The National Science Foundation Authorization Act
9 of 2010 (Public Law 111–358; 124 Stat. 4005) is amend-
10 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 528. INNOVATION CORPS.**

2 “(a) FINDING.—Congress finds the following:

3 “(1) The National Science Foundation’s Inno-
4 vation Corps (referred to in this section as the ‘I-
5 Corps’) was established by Executive authority to
6 foster a national innovation ecosystem by encour-
7 aging institutions, scientists, engineers, and entre-
8 preneurs to identify and explore the innovation and
9 commercial potential of Foundation-funded research
10 well beyond the laboratory.

11 “(2) The I-Corps includes investments in entre-
12 preneurship and commercialization education, train-
13 ing, and mentoring, ultimately leading to the prac-
14 tical deployment of technologies, products, processes,
15 and services that improve the Nation’s competitive-
16 ness, promote economic growth, and benefit society.

17 “(3) By building networks of entrepreneurs,
18 educators, mentors, institutions, and collaborations,
19 and supporting specialized education and training, I-
20 Corps is at the leading edge of a strong, lasting
21 foundation for an American innovation ecosystem.

22 “(4) By translating federally funded research to
23 a commercial stage more quickly and efficiently, pro-
24 grams like the I-Corps create new jobs and compa-
25 nies, help solve societal problems, and provide tax-

1 payers with a greater return on their investment in
2 research.

3 “(5) The I-Corps program model has a strong
4 record of success that should be replicated at all
5 Federal research agencies.

6 “(6) Federal funding of Nodes, Sites, Teams,
7 and leadership and control of curriculum by the Na-
8 tional Science Foundation and other participating
9 agencies are essential parts of the I-Corps program.

10 “(7) The success of the I-Corps program re-
11 quires opportunities for both on-line and in-person
12 access to the I-Corps curriculum.

13 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) NODE.—The term ‘Node’ means a center
15 for entrepreneurial education that—

16 “(A) supports regional and national needs
17 for innovation education, infrastructure, and re-
18 search; and

19 “(B) serves as a location for delivery of the
20 I-Corps curriculum.

21 “(2) SITE.—The term ‘Site’ means a center for
22 entrepreneurial education that supports local and re-
23 gional needs for innovation education, infrastructure,
24 and research.

1 “(3) TEAM.—The term ‘Team’ means a group
2 of 3 or more people receiving I-Corps funding that
3 includes—

4 “(A) at least one undergraduate student,
5 graduate student, or postdoctoral fellow;

6 “(B) at least one professor or research sci-
7 entist; and

8 “(C) at least one person experienced in
9 commercialization or business, to act as a men-
10 tor to the Team.

11 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF I-CORPS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall—

13 “(A) carry out an I-Corps program to
14 award grants for entrepreneurship and commer-
15 cialization education to science and engineering
16 researchers and students and institutions of
17 higher education to increase the economic and
18 social impact of federally funded research; and

19 “(B) develop and provide access through
20 Nodes, Sites, and Teams to I-Corps program
21 curriculum by supporting entrepreneurship and
22 commercialization education and training for
23 faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows, and
24 other science and engineering researchers.

1 “(2) GRANT PURPOSE.—Grants awarded under
2 this section shall increase the capacity of science and
3 engineering researchers and students to successfully
4 engage in entrepreneurial activities and to help tran-
5 sition the results of federally funded research into
6 the marketplace by—

7 “(A) identifying science and engineering
8 research that can lead to the practical deploy-
9 ment of technologies, products, processes, and
10 services that improve the Nation’s economic
11 competitiveness;

12 “(B) bringing science and engineering re-
13 searchers and students together with entre-
14 preneurs, venture capitalists, and other industry
15 representatives experienced in commercializa-
16 tion of new technologies;

17 “(C) supporting entrepreneurship and
18 commercialization education and training for
19 faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows, and
20 other science and engineering researchers; and

21 “(D) promoting the development of re-
22 gional and national networks of innovation that
23 include entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and
24 other industry representatives who can serve as
25 mentors to researchers and students at Founda-

1 tion-funded institutions across the United
2 States.

3 “(3) ADDITIONAL USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—A
4 researcher, student, or institution awarded a grant
5 under this section may use the grant funds to sup-
6 port—

7 “(A) prototype and proof-of-concept devel-
8 opment for funded projects; and

9 “(B) additional activities needed to build
10 local, regional, and national infrastructure for
11 science and engineering entrepreneurship.

12 “(4) COLLABORATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS
13 INNOVATION RESEARCH AND SMALL BUSINESS
14 TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAMS.—The Director
15 may work in collaboration with the Administrator of
16 the Small Business Administration and the heads of
17 Federal agencies that participate in the Small Busi-
18 ness Innovation Research Program and the Small
19 Business Technology Transfer Program under sec-
20 tion 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)
21 to provide entrepreneurship and commercialization
22 education to science and engineering researchers and
23 students and institutions of higher education
24 through the I-Corps program.

25 “(5) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may es-
2 tablish agreements with other Federal agen-
3 cies—

4 “(i) that fund scientific research to
5 make researchers, students, and institu-
6 tions funded by those agencies eligible to
7 participate in the I-Corps program; or

8 “(ii) to assist such agencies with the
9 design and implementation of their own
10 program that is similar to the I-Corps pro-
11 gram.

12 “(B) PARTNERSHIP FUNDING.—Each Fed-
13 eral agency entering into an agreement with the
14 Director, as described in subparagraph (A),
15 may (depending on the agreement negotiated)
16 be responsible for funding—

17 “(i) the training of researchers and
18 students they select to go through the I-
19 Corps program; and

20 “(ii) the Nodes and Sites the agency
21 designates as regional and national infra-
22 structure for science and engineering en-
23 trepreneurship.

1 “(d) I-CORPS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE.—The Di-
2 rector, or the Director’s designee, shall chair a curriculum
3 committee—

4 “(1) consisting of program officers from Fed-
5 eral agencies described in paragraphs (4) and (5) of
6 subsection (c), I-Corps program instructors, re-
7 searchers educated by the I-Corps program, and in-
8 dustry and academic representatives; and

9 “(2) that shall generate and update I-Corps
10 program curriculum and course material across sub-
11 ject areas and maintain the integrity of the cur-
12 riculum.

13 “(e) TEAM SELECTION.—Team selection shall be
14 managed by relevant program officers at the Federal
15 agency funding the Team.

16 “(f) REPORTING.—The Director shall submit a bien-
17 nial report on I-Corps program efficacy to the Committee
18 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
19 and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of
20 the House of Representatives. Such report shall include
21 metrics on the effectiveness of the program and demo-
22 graphic information of Teams being educated by the pro-
23 gram. Each Federal agency participating in the I-Corps
24 program shall contribute to each such report.

1 “(g) STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS.—The Di-
 2 rector may engage in partnerships with State and local
 3 governments, economic development organizations, and
 4 nonprofit organizations to provide access to Nodes, Sites,
 5 and the I-Corps program curriculum to support entrepre-
 6 neurship and commercialization education and training for
 7 faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows, and other science
 8 and engineering professionals as described under this sec-
 9 tion.

10 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 11 are authorized to be appropriated to the Foundation to
 12 carry out this section—

13 “(1) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

14 “(2) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

15 “(3) \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
 16 and 2020.”.

17 **SEC. 3. INCREASE AND STREAMLINE RECOVERY OF UN-**
 18 **CLAIMED ASSETS OWED TO THE UNITED**
 19 **STATES.**

20 Section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, is
 21 amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(j)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in
 23 this subsection as the “Secretary”) may locate and recover
 24 assets of the United States Government on behalf of any

1 executive, judicial, or legislative agency in accordance with
2 such procedures as the Secretary considers appropriate.

3 “(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law con-
4 cerning the depositing or collection of Federal payments,
5 including section 3302(b), the Secretary may retain a por-
6 tion of the amounts recovered under this subsection to
7 cover the administrative and operational costs of the Sec-
8 retary associated with locating and recovering assets of
9 the United States Government.”.

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