

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3517

To amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent applications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent applications, and for other purposes.

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 “Women Inventor De-
5 velopment and Equality Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR**
2 **PATENT APPLICATIONS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 11 of title 35, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 124. Collection of demographic information for**
7 **patent applications**

8 “(a) VOLUNTARY COLLECTION.—The Director shall
9 provide for the collection of demographic information (in-
10 cluding gender, race, and ethnicity) related to an inventor
11 with an application for patent, that may be submitted vol-
12 untarily by that inventor.

13 “(b) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Any information
14 submitted under subsection (a) shall be kept confidential
15 and separate from the application for patent. The Director
16 shall establish appropriate procedures to ensure the con-
17 fidentiality of any information submitted under subsection
18 (a) and to ensure that demographic information is not in-
19 cluded when the application for patent is reviewed.

20 “(c) PUBLICATION OF DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMA-
21 TION.—

22 “(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than Jan-
23 uary 31 of each year, the Director shall publish a re-
24 port that includes the following:

25 “(A) The total number of patent applica-
26 tions filed during the previous year disaggre-

1 gated by demographic information and by class
2 number and title.

3 “(B) The total number of patents issued
4 during the previous year disaggregated by de-
5 mographic information and by class number
6 and title.

7 “(2) PRIVACY.—Any personally identifying in-
8 formation may not be included in the report de-
9 scribed in paragraph (1). If any information that is
10 required to be included in the report would be per-
11 sonally identifying information, such information
12 shall be excluded from the report.

13 “(3) FORMAT.—The report described in para-
14 graph (1) shall be made available in a format that
15 allows the demographic information to be cross-tab-
16 ulated to review subgroups.”.

17 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
18 The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 11 of
19 title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
20 end the following new item:

“124. Collection of demographic information for patent applications.”.

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