

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7092

To direct the Administrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation to produce a report to Congress regarding the efforts to support minority women involvement in STEM fields.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2018

Mr. VEASEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Administrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation to produce a report to Congress regarding the efforts to support minority women involvement in STEM fields.

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 “Minority Women in
5 STEM Inclusion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the Bureau of Labor Statis-
2 tics, in an article published in the May 2015 issue
3 of Monthly Labor Review, there is “significant het-
4 erogeneity in the STEM labor market: the academic
5 sector is generally oversupplied, while the govern-
6 ment sector and private industry have shortages in
7 specific areas.”

8 (2) Women of color, particularly Black women
9 have made significant progress in graduating from
10 college in the areas of study related to science, tech-
11 nology, engineering, and mathematics.

12 (3) Despite these gains, members of this group
13 continue to be underrepresented in the STEM fields
14 of study and related occupations, and in areas rep-
15 resentation has remained flat or has declined.

16 (4) Bipartisan enactment of the Inspiring the
17 Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and
18 Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act and the Pro-
19 moting Women in Entrepreneurship Act served as
20 an important first step to inspire and engage women
21 and girls in certain programs administered by NASA
22 and the NSF.

23 (5) Research and other developments dem-
24 onstrate the need to build upon these 2 laws with in-
25 tentional programs that optimize outreach to and

1 engagement of minority women and girls in STEM-
2 related disciplines relevant to the public and private
3 sectors.

4 (6) According to a Pew Research Center report,
5 Women and Men in STEM Often at Odds Over
6 Workplace Equality, released in January 2018,
7 Black and Hispanic workers continue to be under-
8 represented in the STEM workforce. Blacks make
9 up 11 percent of the U.S. workforce overall but rep-
10 resent 9 percent of STEM workers, while Hispanics
11 comprise 16 percent of the U.S. workforce but only
12 7 percent of all STEM workers.

13 (7) A report published by the National Science
14 Foundation, Women, Minorities, and Persons with
15 Disabilities in Science and Engineering 2017 pro-
16 vides that the percentages are particularly low for
17 Black and Hispanic women, who make up 7 percent
18 and 8 percent of the population respectively, but
19 hold only 2 percent of science and engineering occu-
20 pations.

21 (8) The hacking in 2018 of an all-Black female
22 high school team participating in a NASA competi-
23 tion revealed realities unique to minority women par-
24 ticipating in NASA programs and the groundswell of

1 enthusiasm supporting the increased engagement of
2 Black girls in NASA programs.

3 (9) NASA and other science agencies have an
4 opportunity to translate lessons learned from this in-
5 cident into programs that increase engagement of
6 underrepresented women and girls in its programs.

7 (10) Programs such as the Louis Stokes Alli-
8 ance for Minority Participation, and many other
9 Federal programs, have successfully engaged mil-
10 lions of underrepresented and underserved students
11 in STEM fields of study and related outreach and
12 programs. These and other federally supported pro-
13 grams can be helpful in preparing a more robust
14 pipeline of women of color in STEM professions.

15 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON NASA AND NSF EFFORTS TO SUPPORT**
16 **WOMEN AND MINORITY INVOLVEMENT IN**
17 **STEM FIELDS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of NASA and
19 the Administrator of the NSF shall each conduct a study
20 that includes an analysis and description of ways to in-
21 crease the participation of minority women within existing
22 programs related to STEM fields carried out by NASA
23 and the NSF, respectively.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the study required
2 under subsection (a), the Administrators shall consider the
3 following:

4 (1) Scholarships, internships, mentoring, tar-
5 geted high school competitions, fellowships, faculty
6 assignments, and other support to encourage and
7 engage minority women in STEM areas of study
8 throughout high school, university, graduate edu-
9 cation and the acquisition of faculty positions.

10 (2) Resources to ensure minority women par-
11 ticipate more broadly in the full range of programs
12 sponsored by each agency, and as potential employ-
13 ees and high-potential leaders.

14 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
15 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of NASA and
16 the Administrator of the NSF shall submit to the Com-
17 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
18 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
19 Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and make pub-
20 licly available on an internet website, a report that con-
21 tains the results of the study required under subsection
22 (a) and policy recommendations for Congress to consider
23 to increase participation of minority women in STEM, in-
24 cluding proposals for new programs, ways to expand exist-

1 ing programs, and potential increases in funding of exist-
2 ing programs.

3 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

4 (a) STEM.—The term “STEM” means the academic
5 and professional disciplines of science, technology, engi-
6 neering, and mathematics.

7 (b) NASA.—The term “NASA” means the National
8 Aeronautics and Space Administration.

9 (c) NSF.—The term “NSF” means the National
10 Science Foundation.

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