

## Union Calendar No.

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 144

[Report No. 117-]

To forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program.

---

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. LUCAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MARCH --, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 4, 2021]

# **A BILL**

To forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program.

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 “Supporting Early-Ca-*  
5 *reer Researchers Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds the following:*

8 *(1) The Nation’s universities and industrial re-*  
9 *search labs are facing unprecedented budget pressure*  
10 *as part of the COVID–19 health crisis, resulting in*  
11 *considerably fewer openings for research and teaching*  
12 *positions.*

13 *(2) Emergency funding is needed to forestall the*  
14 *loss of research talent likely to occur if early-career*  
15 *researchers are forced to seek employment outside of*  
16 *research due to the sharp economic decline caused by*  
17 *the COVID–19 health crisis.*

18 *(3) The future of America’s defense will rely on*  
19 *advanced technologies to maintain its military supe-*  
20 *riority over its rivals, including China. These tech-*  
21 *nologies will require new levels of scientific and engi-*  
22 *neering aptitude and understanding. Early career re-*  
23 *searchers will play a critical role in the development*  
24 *of these technologies, and the loss of an entire genera-*  
25 *tion of researchers due to the COVID–19 pandemic*

1        *will be detrimental to the United States national se-*  
2        *curity.*

3        **SEC. 3. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

4        (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Director of the National*  
5        *Science Foundation may establish a 2-year pilot program*  
6        *to award grants to highly qualified early-career investiga-*  
7        *tors to carry out an independent research program at the*  
8        *qualified institution of higher education chosen by such in-*  
9        *vestigator, to last for a period not greater than 2 years.*

10       (b) *SELECTION PROCESS.*—*The Director of the Na-*  
11       *tional Science Foundation shall select grantees under sub-*  
12       *section (a) from among citizens, nationals, and lawfully ad-*  
13       *mitted permanent resident aliens of the United States.*

14       (c) *OUTREACH.*—*The Director shall conduct program*  
15       *outreach to recruit fellowship applicants—*

16                (1) *from all regions of the country;*

17                (2) *from historically underrepresented popu-*  
18        *lations in the fields of science, technology, engineer-*  
19        *ing, and mathematics; and*

20                (3) *who graduate from or intend to carry out re-*  
21        *search at a variety of types of institutions of higher*  
22        *education, including—*

23                        (A) *Historically Black Colleges and Univer-*  
24        *sities;*

25                        (B) *Hispanic-Serving Institutions;*

1                   (C) *Tribal Colleges and Universities; and*  
2                   (D) *institutions of higher education that are*  
3                   *not among the top 50 institutions in annual*  
4                   *Federal funding for research.*

5           (d) *SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.*—*The Director shall give*  
6           *special consideration to an application from an individual*  
7           *who graduated from or is intending to carry out research*  
8           *at an institution of the type listed in subsection (c)(3).*

9           (e) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 90 days after the conclu-*  
10           *sion of the second year of the pilot program, the Director*  
11           *shall submit a report to Congress that includes—*

12                   (1) *statistical summary data on fellowship*  
13                   *awardees disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender,*  
14                   *age, years since completion of doctoral degree, and in-*  
15                   *stitution type;*

16                   (2) *an assessment, drawing on feedback from the*  
17                   *research community and other sources of information,*  
18                   *of the effectiveness of the pilot program for mitigating*  
19                   *the loss of research talent due to the pandemic; and*

20                   (3) *if determined effective, a plan for permanent*  
21                   *implementation of the pilot program.*

22           (f) *QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION*  
23           *DEFINED.*—*The term “qualified institution of higher edu-*  
24           *cation” means an institution of higher education (as de-*  
25           *finied in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965*

1 *(20 U.S.C. 1001)) that is inside the United States or a ter-*  
2 *ritory of the United States.*

3 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 *There is authorized to be appropriated to the Director*  
5 *of the National Science Foundation \$250,000,000 for each*  
6 *of fiscal years 2021 through 2022 to carry out the activities*  
7 *in this Act.*