

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5451

To demonstrate a commitment to our Nation’s scientists by increasing opportunities for the development of our next generation of researchers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To demonstrate a commitment to our Nation’s scientists by increasing opportunities for the development of our next generation of researchers.

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 “Next Generation Re-
5 search Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF RE-**
7 **SEARCHERS.**

8 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

1 **“SEC. 404M. NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCH.**

2 “(a) NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCH INITIA-
3 TIVE.—There shall be established within the Office of the
4 Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Next
5 Generation of Research Initiative (referred to in this sec-
6 tion as the ‘Initiative’), through which the Director shall
7 coordinate all policies and programs within the National
8 Institutes of Health aimed at promoting and providing op-
9 portunities for new researchers.

10 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—The Director of NIH through the
11 Initiative shall—

12 “(1) promote policies and programs within the
13 National Institutes of Health that are aimed at im-
14 proving opportunities for new researchers, including
15 existing policies and programs such as the Pathway
16 to Independence Award, the NIH Director’s New In-
17 novator Award, the Early Independence Award, and
18 Early-Stage Investigator grant review procedures;

19 “(2) develop or modify policies, as needed, with-
20 in the National Institutes of Health to promote op-
21 portunities for new researchers, including policies to
22 strengthen mentorship programs between new and
23 veteran researchers, enhance workforce diversity ef-
24 forts, and help to improve new researchers’ success
25 in obtaining renewal funding; and

1 “(3) carry out other activities, as appropriate,
2 to promote the development of the next generation
3 of researchers.

4 “(c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

5 “(1) STUDY.—The Director of NIH shall re-
6 quest the National Academy of Sciences, as part of
7 the studies conducted under section 489, to conduct
8 a comprehensive study on policies affecting the next
9 generation of researchers in the United States. Such
10 study shall include an evaluation of the legislative,
11 administrative, educational, and cultural barriers to
12 providing for a successful next generation of re-
13 searchers.

14 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the National Academy
16 of Sciences shall submit to the Director, the Com-
17 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
18 Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of
19 the House of Representatives, the Committee on
20 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
21 ate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the
22 Senate, a report concerning the results of the study
23 conducted under paragraph (1). Such report shall
24 include—

1 “(A) an evaluation of the legislative, ad-
2 ministrative, educational, and cultural barriers
3 faced by the next generation of researchers;

4 “(B) an evaluation of the impact of se-
5 questration resulting from the Budget Control
6 Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) and Federal
7 budget constraints on the next generation of re-
8 searchers; and

9 “(C) recommendations for the implementa-
10 tion of policies to incentivize, improve entry
11 into, and sustain careers in research for the
12 next generation of researchers, including pro-
13 posed policies for agencies and academic insti-
14 tutions.

15 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 is authorized to be appropriated, such sums as may be
17 necessary to carry out this section.”.

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