

PERMISSION TO RE-REFER EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION 1370 TO COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Executive Communication 1370, the Department of Transportation's final rule, Human Space Flight Requirements for Crew and Space Flight Participants, be referred to the Committee on Science and Technology.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

10,000 TRAINED BY 2010 ACT

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1467) to authorize the National Science Foundation to award grants to institutions of higher education to develop and offer education and training programs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1467

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "10,000 Trained by 2010 Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) the National Science Foundation has long been a government leader in strengthening our Nation's information infrastructure;

(2) as automation and digitization reach the healthcare industry, that industry will need to draw heavily on the expertise of researchers funded by the National Science Foundation for the collection, processing, and utilization of information;

(3) the National Science Foundation's basic research, demonstrations, and curriculum development assistance are all required to help make sure the industry has the knowledge, procedures, and workforce necessary to take full advantage of advanced communications and information technology;

(4) the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that 136,000 Americans were employed in 2000 as information management professionals in the healthcare industry alone, with projected growth of 49 percent by 2010; and

(5) no systematic plan exists for designing and implementing systems and information tools and for ensuring that the healthcare workforce can make the transition to the information age.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(2) **INFORMATION.**—The term "information" means healthcare information.

(3) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

SEC. 4. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.

(a) **GRANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies

as appropriate, shall award grants for basic research on innovative approaches to improve information systems. Research areas may include—

- (A) information studies;
- (B) population informatics;
- (C) translational informatics; and
- (D) data security, integrity, and confidentiality.

(2) **MERIT REVIEW; COMPETITION.**—Grants shall be awarded under this section on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis.

(3) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this subsection—

- (A) \$3,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (B) \$3,600,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- (C) \$3,700,000 for fiscal year 2010; and
- (D) \$3,800,000 for fiscal year 2011.

(b) **INFORMATICS RESEARCH CENTERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall award multiyear grants, subject to the availability of appropriations, to institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) to establish multidisciplinary Centers for Informatics Research. Institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) receiving such grants may partner with one or more government laboratories, for-profit institutions, or non-profit institutions.

(2) **MERIT REVIEW; COMPETITION.**—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis.

(3) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Centers shall be to generate innovative approaches in information by conducting cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research, including in the research areas described in subsection (a)(1).

(4) **APPLICATIONS.**—An institution of higher education (or a consortium thereof) seeking funding under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

(A) the research projects that will be undertaken by the Center and the contributions of each of the participating entities;

(B) how the Center will promote active collaboration among professionals from different disciplines, such as information technology specialists, health professionals, administrators, and social science researchers; and

(C) how the Center will contribute to increasing the number of information researchers and other professionals.

(5) **CRITERIA.**—In evaluating the applications submitted under paragraph (4), the Director shall consider, at a minimum—

(A) the ability of the applicant to generate innovative approaches to information and effectively carry out the research program;

(B) the experience of the applicant in conducting research in the information field, and the capacity of the applicant to foster new multidisciplinary collaborations;

(C) the capacity of the applicant to attract and provide adequate support for undergraduate and graduate students to pursue information research; and

(D) the extent to which the applicant will partner with government laboratories or for-profit or non-profit entities, and the role the government laboratories or for-profit or non-profit entities will play in the research undertaken by the Center.

(6) **ANNUAL MEETING.**—The Director shall convene an annual meeting of the Centers in order to foster collaboration and communication between Center participants.

(7) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for

the National Science Foundation to carry out this subsection—

- (A) \$4,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (B) \$4,600,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- (C) \$4,700,000 for fiscal year 2010; and
- (D) \$4,800,000 for fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION INFORMATION PROGRAMS.

(a) **CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies as appropriate, shall establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) to establish or improve undergraduate and master's degree information programs, to increase the number of students who pursue undergraduate or master's degrees in information fields, to provide students with experience in government or industry related to their information studies, and, to the extent practicable, to do so using distance learning.

(2) **MERIT REVIEW; COMPETITION.**—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis.

(3) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Grants awarded under this subsection shall be used for activities that enhance the ability of an institution of higher education (or consortium thereof) to provide high-quality information education, including certification and undergraduate and master's degree programs, and to recruit and retain increased numbers of students to such programs. Activities may include—

(A) developing and revising curriculum to better prepare undergraduate and master's degree students for careers in the information field;

(B) establishing degree and certificate programs in the information field;

(C) creating opportunities in information research for undergraduate students;

(D) acquiring equipment necessary for student instruction in these programs, including the installation of testbed networks for student use;

(E) providing opportunities for faculty to work with State, local, or Federal Government agencies, private industry, and other academic institutions to develop new expertise or to formulate new information research directions;

(F) establishing collaborations with other academic institutions or departments that seek to establish, expand, or enhance these programs;

(G) establishing student internships for students in these programs at State, local, and Federal Government agencies or in private industry;

(H) establishing or enhancing bridge programs in information fields between community colleges and universities; and

(I) any other activities the Director, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies as appropriate, determines will achieve the purposes described in paragraph (1).

(4) **SELECTION PROCESS.**—

(A) **APPLICATION.**—An institution of higher education (or a consortium thereof) seeking funding under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and with such contents as the Director may require. The application shall include, at a minimum—

(i) a description of the applicant's relevant research and instructional capacity, and in the case of an application from a consortium of institutions of higher education, a description of the role that each member will play in implementing the proposal;

(ii) a comprehensive plan by which the institution or consortium will build instructional capacity in information fields;