

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4030

To establish the Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education program to recognize private entities for their outstanding contributions to elementary and secondary science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

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## A BILL

To establish the Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education program to recognize private entities for their outstanding contributions to elementary and secondary science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

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 “Congressional Medal  
5       for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Edu-  
6       cation Act of 2004”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
4 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

5 (2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND SECONDARY  
6 SCHOOL.—The terms “elementary school” and “sec-  
7 ondary school” have the meaning given those terms  
8 in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary  
9 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

10 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

11 The Director shall establish a Congressional Medal  
12 for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Edu-  
13 cation program, which shall be designed to—

14 (1) recognize private entities for outstanding ef-  
15 forts supporting elementary and secondary schools  
16 in improving student achievement in science, tech-  
17 nology, engineering, and mathematics;

18 (2) encourage private entities to support ele-  
19 mentary and secondary schools to improve and un-  
20 derscore the importance of science, technology, engi-  
21 neering, and mathematics education; and

22 (3) make information about medal recipients  
23 available to schools, institutions of higher education,  
24 educators, parents, administrators, policymakers, re-  
25 searchers, public and private entities, and the gen-  
26 eral public.

1 **SEC. 4. MEDALS.**

2 (a) FINALISTS.—Beginning not later than 2 years  
3 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall  
4 annually name as finalists for medals under this Act—

5 (1) not more than 20 private entities with more  
6 than 500 employees; and

7 (2) not more than 20 private entities with 500  
8 or fewer employees.

9 Each finalist shall receive a citation describing the basis  
10 for the entity achieving status as a finalist.

11 (b) MEDAL WINNERS.—Beginning not later than 2  
12 years after the date of enactment of this Act, from among  
13 finalists named under subsection (a), the Director shall  
14 annually award medals under this Act to—

15 (1) not more than 5 private entities with more  
16 than 500 employees; and

17 (2) not more than 5 private entities with 500  
18 or fewer employees.

19 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—(1) The Di-  
20 rector shall distribute information about the Congressional  
21 Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science  
22 Education recipients under this Act in a timely and effi-  
23 cient manner (including through the use of a searchable  
24 online database) to schools, institutions of higher edu-  
25 cation, educators, parents, administrators, policymakers,

1 researchers, public and private entities, and the general  
2 public.

3 (2) An entity that is a finalist or receives a medal  
4 under this section may use such information for adver-  
5 tising and other publicity purposes.

6 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY.**

7 Any private entity that has, whether working alone  
8 or in partnership with for-profit or nonprofit entities, as-  
9 sisted students, teachers, administrators, or other support  
10 staff to improve student achievement in science, tech-  
11 nology, engineering, and mathematics in a school or com-  
12 munity shall be eligible to receive a medal under section  
13 4. The entity must have been involved in such activities  
14 in a sustained manner for at least 2 years with at least  
15 one elementary or secondary school.

16 **SEC. 6. APPLICATION.**

17 The Director shall establish a system for accepting  
18 applications from entities seeking to be considered for a  
19 medal under this Act. Applications shall include at least  
20 two letters of support, which may come from teachers,  
21 professional support staff, administrators, professional or  
22 business organizations, local, county, or State Depart-  
23 ments of Education, or any other category of persons as  
24 designated by the Director. Letters of support shall de-  
25 scribe the reasons the entity deserves the medal.

1 **SEC. 7. SELECTION.**

2 In selecting entities to receive medals under this Act,  
3 the Director shall give priority consideration to evidence  
4 of improved student achievement in science, technology,  
5 engineering, or mathematics. In addition to any other cri-  
6 teria the Director may establish, the Director shall also  
7 consider the following:

8 (1) Evidence of innovative approaches to in-  
9 crease interest by students in science, technology,  
10 engineering, and mathematics, such as an increase  
11 in the number of students enrolled in advanced  
12 courses related to such fields.

13 (2) Evidence of employee interaction with stu-  
14 dents or teachers to support and improve mathe-  
15 matics and science learning.

16 (3) Evidence of success in positively influencing  
17 student attitudes and promoting education and ca-  
18 reer opportunities in science, technology, engineer-  
19 ing, and mathematics.

20 (4) Evidence of successful outreach to students,  
21 parents, and the community regarding the impor-  
22 tance of mathematics and science education to the  
23 Nation's prosperity, job creation, and standard of  
24 living, as well as future earning potential for the in-  
25 dividual.

1           (5) Evidence of a strong and sustained commit-  
2           ment to the students and schools.

3 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4           For each of fiscal years 2005 through 2007, there  
5           are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science  
6           Foundation such sums as may be necessary for carrying  
7           out this Act, to be derived from amounts authorized by  
8           the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of  
9           2002.

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