

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1119

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

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 “Research and Develop-  
5       ment Efficiency Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.**

7       (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
8       gress that—

9               (1) high and increasing administrative burdens  
10       and costs in Federal research administration, par-

1 particularly in the higher education sector where most  
2 federally sponsored research is performed, are erod-  
3 ing funds available to carry out basic scientific re-  
4 search;

5 (2) progress has been made over the last decade  
6 in streamlining the pre-award grant application  
7 process through Grants.gov, the Federal Govern-  
8 ment's website portal;

9 (3) post-award administrative costs have grown  
10 as Federal research agencies have continued to im-  
11 pose agency-unique compliance and reporting re-  
12 quirements on researchers and research institutions;

13 (4) facilities and administration costs at re-  
14 search universities can exceed 50 percent of the total  
15 value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated  
16 that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annu-  
17 ally in federally funded research is consumed by pa-  
18 perwork and other administrative processes required  
19 by Federal agencies; and

20 (5) it is a matter of critical importance to  
21 American competitiveness that administrative costs  
22 of federally funded research be streamlined so that  
23 a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into di-  
24 rect research activities.

1 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of  
2 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working  
3 group under the authority of the National Science and  
4 Technology Council, to include the Office of Management  
5 and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for  
6 reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and re-  
7 search universities and making recommendations on how  
8 to—

9 (1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate dupli-  
10 cative Federal regulations and reporting require-  
11 ments; and

12 (2) minimize the regulatory burden on United  
13 States institutions of higher education performing  
14 federally funded research while maintaining account-  
15 ability for Federal tax dollars.

16 (c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the re-  
17 sponsibilities under subsection (b), the working group  
18 shall take into account input and recommendations from  
19 non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and  
20 nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher  
21 education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations,  
22 nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small  
23 businesses, federally funded research and development  
24 centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness,

1 efficiency, and accountability in the performance of sci-  
2 entific research.

3 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
4 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3  
5 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on  
6 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
8 and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been  
9 taken to carry out the recommendations of the working  
10 group established under subsection (b).

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