

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3293

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To provide for greater accountability in Federal funding for
scientific research, to promote the progress of science
in the United States that serves that national interest.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Scientific Research in
3 the National Interest Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN FEDERAL FUNDING**
5 **FOR RESEARCH.**

6 (a) STANDARD FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—The Na-
7 tional Science Foundation shall award Federal funding for
8 basic research and education in the sciences through a new
9 research grant or cooperative agreement only if an affirm-
10 ative determination is made by the Foundation under sub-
11 section (b) and written justification relating thereto is
12 published under subsection (c).

13 (b) DETERMINATION.—A determination referred to
14 in subsection (a) is a justification by the responsible Foun-
15 dation official as to how the research grant or cooperative
16 agreement promotes the progress of science in the United
17 States, consistent with the Foundation mission as estab-
18 lished in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42
19 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and further—

20 (1) is worthy of Federal funding;

21 (2) is consistent with established and widely ac-
22 cepted scientific methods applicable to the field of
23 study of exploration;

24 (3) is consistent with the definition of basic re-
25 search as it applies to the purpose and field of
26 study; and

1 (4) is in the national interest, as indicated by
2 having the potential to achieve—

3 (A) increased economic competitiveness in
4 the United States;

5 (B) advancement of the health and welfare
6 of the American public;

7 (C) development of an American STEM
8 workforce, including computer science and in-
9 formation technology sectors, that is globally
10 competitive;

11 (D) increased public scientific literacy and
12 public engagement with science and technology
13 in the United States;

14 (E) increased partnerships between aca-
15 demia and industry in the United States;

16 (F) support for the national defense of the
17 United States; or

18 (G) promotion of the progress of science
19 for the United States.

20 (c) WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION.—Public announce-
21 ment of each award of Federal funding described in sub-
22 section (a) shall include a written justification from the
23 responsible Foundation official as to how a grant or coop-
24 erative agreement meets the requirements of subsection
25 (b).

1 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—A determination under sub-
2 section (b) shall be made after a research grant or cooper-
3 ative agreement proposal has satisfied the Foundation’s
4 reviews for Merit and Broader Impacts. Nothing in this
5 section shall be construed as altering the Foundation’s in-
6 tellectual merit or broader impacts criteria for evaluating
7 grant applications.

8 (e) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be
9 construed to impact Federal funding for research grants
10 or cooperative agreements awarded by the National
11 Science Foundation prior to the date of enactment of this
12 Act.

Passed the House of Representatives February 10,
2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.