

Calendar No. 410

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2014

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. ALEXANDER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

APRIL 4, 2016

Reported by Mr. ALEXANDER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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 searchers Act".

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

3 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
 4 (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 404M. NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS.**

7 ~~“(a) NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS INITIA-~~
 8 ~~TIVE.—~~There shall be established within the Office of the
 9 Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Next
 10 Generation of Researchers Initiative (referred to in this
 11 section as the ‘Initiative’); through which the Director
 12 shall coordinate all policies and programs within the Na-
 13 tional Institutes of Health aimed at promoting and pro-
 14 viding opportunities for new researchers and earlier re-
 15 search independence.

16 ~~“(b) ACTIVITIES.—~~The Director of NIH, through the
 17 Initiative shall—

18 ~~“(1) promote policies and programs within the~~
 19 ~~National Institutes of Health that are aimed at im-~~
 20 ~~proving opportunities for new researchers and pro-~~
 21 ~~moting earlier research independence, including ex-~~
 22 ~~isting policies and programs such as the Pathway to~~
 23 ~~Independence Award, the NIH Director’s New Inno-~~
 24 ~~vator Award, the Early Independence Award, and~~
 25 ~~Early-Stage Investigator grant review procedures;~~

1 “(2) develop, modify, or accelerate policies, as
2 needed, within the National Institutes of Health to
3 promote opportunities for new researchers and ear-
4 lier research independence, including policies to en-
5 hance training opportunities for research-related ca-
6 reer options, strengthen mentorship programs be-
7 tween new and veteran researchers, enhance work-
8 force diversity efforts, and help to improve new re-
9 searchers’ success in obtaining renewal funding;

10 “(3) coordinate with appropriate agencies and
11 academic institutions to develop systems to enhance
12 workforce data for biomedical postdoctoral research-
13 ers and students to help improve tracking of trainees
14 and career progress; and

15 “(4) carry out other activities, as appropriate,
16 to promote the development of the next generation
17 of researchers and earlier research independence.

18 “(e) STUDY AND REPORT.—

19 “(1) STUDY.—The Director of NIH shall re-
20 quest the National Academy of Sciences, as part of
21 the studies conducted under section 489, to conduct
22 a comprehensive study on policies affecting the next
23 generation of researchers in the United States. Such
24 study shall include an evaluation of, and strategies
25 to address, the legislative, administrative, edu-

1 eational, and cultural barriers to providing for a suc-
2 cessful next generation of researchers and to pro-
3 mote earlier research independence.

4 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the
5 date of enactment of the Next Generation Research-
6 ers Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall sub-
7 mit to the Director, the Committee on Health, Edu-
8 cation, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on
9 Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on
10 Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ap-
11 propriations of the House of Representatives, a re-
12 port concerning the results of the study conducted
13 under paragraph (1). Such report shall include—

14 “(A) an evaluation of the legislative, ad-
15 ministrative, educational, and cultural barriers
16 faced by the next generation of researchers;

17 “(B) an evaluation of the impact of se-
18 questration resulting from the Budget Control
19 Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) and Federal
20 budget constraints on the next generation of re-
21 searchers; and

22 “(C) recommendations for the implementa-
23 tion of policies to incentivize, improve entry
24 into, and sustain careers in research for the
25 next generation of researchers and to promote

1 earlier research independence, including pro-
2 posed policies for agencies and academic insti-
3 tutions.”.

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5 *This Act may be cited as the “Next Generation Re-*
6 *searchers Act”.*

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

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

12 **“SEC. 404M. NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS.**

13 *“(a) NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS INITIA-*
14 *TIVE.—There shall be established within the Office of the*
15 *Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Next Gen-*
16 *eration of Researchers Initiative (referred to in this section*
17 *as the ‘Initiative’), through which the Director shall coordi-*
18 *nate all policies and programs within the National Insti-*
19 *tutes of Health that are focused on promoting and pro-*
20 *viding opportunities for new researchers and earlier re-*
21 *search independence.*

22 *“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the National Insti-*
23 *tutes of Health, through the Initiative shall—*

24 *“(1) promote policies and programs within the*
25 *National Institutes of Health that are focused on im-*

1 *proving opportunities for new researchers and pro-*
2 *moting earlier research independence, including exist-*
3 *ing policies and programs, as appropriate;*

4 “(2) *develop, modify, or prioritize policies, as*
5 *needed, within the National Institutes of Health to*
6 *promote opportunities for new researchers and earlier*
7 *research independence, such as policies to increase op-*
8 *portunities for new researchers to receive funding, en-*
9 *hance training and mentorship programs for re-*
10 *searchers, and enhance workforce diversity;*

11 “(3) *coordinate, as appropriate, with relevant*
12 *agencies, professional and academic associations, aca-*
13 *demically institutions, and others, to improve and update*
14 *existing information on the biomedical research work-*
15 *force in order to inform programs related to the*
16 *training, recruitment, and retention of biomedical re-*
17 *searchers; and*

18 “(4) *carry out other activities, including evalua-*
19 *tion and oversight of existing programs, as appro-*
20 *priate, to promote the development of the next genera-*
21 *tion of researchers and earlier research independ-*
22 *ence.”.*

23 **(b) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES RECOMMENDA-**
24 **TIONS.—***In carrying out activities under section 404M(b)*
25 *of the Public Health Service Act, the Director of the Na-*

1 *tional Institutes of Health shall take into consideration the*
 2 *recommendations made by the National Academies of*
 3 *Sciences as part of the comprehensive study on policies af-*
 4 *fecting the next generation of researchers under the Depart-*
 5 *ment of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act,*
 6 *2016 (Public Law No. 114-113), and submit a report to*
 7 *Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and*
 8 *the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the*
 9 *Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee*
 10 *on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, with re-*
 11 *spect to any actions taken by the National Institutes of*
 12 *Health based on the recommendations not later than 2 years*
 13 *after the completion of the study required pursuant to such*
 14 *Public Law No. 114-113.*

15 **SEC. 3. INTRAMURAL AND EXTRAMURAL LOAN REPAYMENT**

16 **PROGRAMS.**

17 (a) *INTRAMURAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.*—*Sec-*
 18 *tion 487A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288-*
 19 *1) is amended—*

20 (1) *in the section heading, by striking “FOR RE-*
 21 *SEARCH WITH RESPECT TO ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFI-*
 22 *CIENCY SYNDROME”;*

23 (2) *in subsection (a)—*

24 (A) *by striking “The Secretary shall carry*
 25 *out a program” and inserting “The Director of*

1 *NIH shall, as appropriate and based on work-*
2 *force and scientific priorities, carry out a pro-*
3 *gram through the subcategories listed in sub-*
4 *section (b)(1) (or modified subcategories as pro-*
5 *vided for in subsection (b)(2))”;*

6 *(B) by striking “conduct” and inserting*
7 *“conduct research”;*

8 *(C) by striking “research with respect to ac-*
9 *quired immune deficiency syndrome”; and*

10 *(D) by striking “\$35,000” and inserting*
11 *“\$50,000”;*

12 *(3) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection*
13 *(d);*

14 *(4) by inserting after subsection (a), the fol-*
15 *lowing:*

16 *“(b) SUBCATEGORIES OF RESEARCH.—*

17 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program*
18 *under subsection (a), the Director of NIH—*

19 *“(A) shall continue to focus on—*

20 *“(i) general research;*

21 *“(ii) research on acquired immune de-*
22 *ficiency syndrome; and*

23 *“(iii) clinical research conducted by*
24 *appropriately qualified health professional*

1 *who are from disadvantaged backgrounds;*
2 *and*

3 “(B) *may focus on an area of emerging sci-*
4 *entific or workforce need.*”

5 “(2) *ELIMINATION OR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-*
6 *CATEGORIES.—The Director of NIH may eliminate*
7 *one or more subcategories provided for in paragraph*
8 *(1) due to changes in workforce or scientific needs re-*
9 *lated to biomedical research. The Director may estab-*
10 *lish other subcategory areas based on workforce and*
11 *scientific priorities if the total number of subcat-*
12 *egories does not exceed the number of subcategories*
13 *listed in paragraph (1).*”

14 “(c) *LIMITATION.—The Director of NIH may not enter*
15 *into contract with a health professional pursuant to sub-*
16 *section (a) unless such professional has a substantial*
17 *amount of education loans relative to income (as deter-*
18 *mined pursuant to guidelines issued by the Director).”; and*

19 *(5) by adding at the end the following:*

20 “(e) *AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts*
21 *available for carrying out this section shall remain avail-*
22 *able until the expiration of the second fiscal year beginning*
23 *after the fiscal year for which such amounts are made avail-*
24 *able.”.*”

1 (b) *EXTRAMURAL LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.*—*Sec-*
2 *tion 487B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288-*
3 *2) is amended—*

4 (1) *in the section heading, by striking “FOR RE-*
5 *SEARCH WITH RESPECT TO CONTRACEPTION AND IN-*
6 *FERTILITY”;*

7 (2) *in subsection (a)—*

8 (A) *by striking “The Secretary, in consulta-*
9 *tion with the Director of the Eunice Kennedy*
10 *Shriver National Institute of Child Health and*
11 *Human Development, shall establish a program”*
12 *and inserting “IN GENERAL.—The Director of*
13 *the NIH shall, as appropriate and based on*
14 *workforce and scientific priorities, carry out a*
15 *program through the subcategories listed in sub-*
16 *section (b)(1) (or modified subcategories as pro-*
17 *vided for in subsection (b)(2)),”;*

18 (B) *by striking “(including graduate stu-*
19 *dents)”;*

20 (C) *by striking “with respect to contracep-*
21 *tion, or with respect to infertility,”; and*

22 (D) *by striking “service, not more than*
23 *\$35,000” and inserting “research, not more than*
24 *\$50,000”;*

1 (3) *by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as*
2 *subsections (d) and (e), respectively;*

3 (4) *by inserting after subsection (a), the fol-*
4 *lowing:*

5 “(b) *SUBCATEGORIES OF RESEARCH.—*

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program*
7 *under subsection (a), the Director of NIH—*

8 “(A) *shall continue to focus on—*

9 “(i) *contraception or infertility re-*
10 *search;*

11 “(ii) *pediatric research;*

12 “(iii) *minority health disparities re-*
13 *search;*

14 “(iv) *clinical research; and*

15 “(v) *clinical research conducted by ap-*
16 *propriately qualified health professional*
17 *who are from disadvantaged backgrounds;*
18 *and*

19 “(B) *may focus on an area of emerging sci-*
20 *entific or workforce need.*

21 “(2) *ELIMINATION OR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-*
22 *CATEGORIES.—The Director of NIH may eliminate*
23 *one or more subcategories provided for in paragraph*
24 *(1) due to changes in workforce or scientific needs re-*
25 *lated to biomedical research. The Director may estab-*

1 *lish other subcategory areas based on workforce and*
2 *scientific priorities if the total number of subcat-*
3 *egories does not exceed the number of subcategories*
4 *listed in paragraph (1).*

5 *“(c) LIMITATION.—The Director of NIH may not enter*
6 *into contract with a health professional pursuant to sub-*
7 *section (a) unless such professional has a substantial*
8 *amount of education loans relative to income (as deter-*
9 *mined pursuant to guidelines issued by the Director).”;*

10 *(5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), by*
11 *striking “The provisions” and inserting “APPLICA-*
12 *BILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING OBLI-*
13 *GATED SERVICE.—The provisions”;* and

14 *(6) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by*
15 *striking “Amounts” and inserting “AVAILABILITY OF*
16 *APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts”.*

17 *(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—*
18 *Title IV of the Public Health Service Act is amended—*

19 *(1) by striking section 4642-5 (42 U.S.C. 285t-*
20 *2);*

21 *(2) by striking section 487C (42 U.S.C. 288-3);*

22 *(3) by striking section 487E (42 U.S.C. 288-5);*

23 *and*

24 *(4) by striking section 487F (42 U.S.C. 288-5a).*

1 (d) *GAO REPORT.*—Not later than 18 months after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
3 the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the
4 efforts of the National Institutes of Health to attract, retain,
5 and develop emerging scientists, including underrepresented
6 individuals in the sciences, such as women and other
7 groups. Such report shall include an analysis of the impact
8 of the additional authority provided to the Secretary of
9 Health and Human Services under this Act to address
10 workforce shortages and gaps in priority research areas, in-
11 cluding which centers and research areas offered loan re-
12 payment program participants the increased award
13 amount.

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

APRIL 4, 2016

Reported with an amendment