

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 255

To authorize the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs for women.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2017

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

A BILL

To authorize the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs for women.

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 “Promoting Women in
5 Entrepreneurship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) women make up almost 50 percent of the
9 workforce, but less than 25 percent of the workforce

1 in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
2 (STEM) professions;

3 (2) women are less likely to focus on the STEM
4 disciplines in undergraduate and graduate study;

5 (3) only 26 percent of women who do attain de-
6 grees in STEM fields work in STEM jobs;

7 (4) there is an increasing demand for individ-
8 uals with STEM degrees to extend their focus be-
9 yond the laboratory so they can be leaders in dis-
10 covery commercialization;

11 (5) studies have shown that technology and
12 commercialization ventures are successful when
13 women are in top management positions; and

14 (6) the National Science Foundation’s mission
15 includes supporting women in STEM disciplines.

16 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURIAL PRO-**
17 **GRAMS.**

18 Section 33 of the Science and Engineering Equal Op-
19 portunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
21 (10);

22 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
23 graph (11) and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(12) encourage its entrepreneurial programs to
2 recruit and support women to extend their focus be-
3 yond the laboratory and into the commercial
4 world.”.

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