

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 255

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Women in
3 Entrepreneurship Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) women make up almost 50 percent of the
7 workforce, but less than 25 percent of the workforce
8 in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
9 (STEM) professions;

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

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

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

18 (5) studies have shown that technology and
19 commercialization ventures are successful when
20 women are in top management positions; and

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

23 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURIAL PRO-**
24 **GRAMS.**

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

1 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
2 (10);

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

5 (3) by adding at the end the following new
6 paragraph:

7 “(12) encourage its entrepreneurial programs to
8 recruit and support women to extend their focus be-
9 yond the laboratory and into the commercial
10 world.”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 10,
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.