

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 321

To inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. HILL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BOST, Mr. EMMER, Ms. BEUTLER, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

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 “Inspiring the Next
3 Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers
4 (INSPIRE) Women Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds that—

7 (1) NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS are virtual
8 mentoring programs using commercially available
9 video chat programs to pair National Aeronautics
10 and Space Administration mentors with young stu-
11 dents anywhere in the country. NASA GIRLS and
12 NASA BOYS give young students the opportunity to
13 interact and learn from real engineers, scientists,
14 and technologists.

15 (2) The Aspire to Inspire (A2I) program en-
16 engages young girls to present science, technology, en-
17 gineering, and mathematics (STEM) career opportu-
18 nities through the real lives and jobs of early career
19 women at NASA.

20 (3) The Summer Institute in Science, Tech-
21 nology, Engineering, and Research (SISTER) pro-
22 gram at the Goddard Space Flight Center is de-
23 signed to increase awareness of, and provide an op-
24 portunity for, female middle school students to be
25 exposed to and explore nontraditional career fields
26 with Goddard Space Flight Center women engineers,

1 mathematicians, scientists, technicians, and re-
2 searchers.

3 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE**
4 **FIELDS OF AEROSPACE AND SPACE EXPLO-**
5 **RATION.**

6 The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and
7 Space Administration shall encourage women and girls to
8 study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,
9 pursue careers in aerospace, and further advance the Na-
10 tion's space science and exploration efforts through sup-
11 port of the following initiatives:

- 12 (1) NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS.
- 13 (2) Aspire to Inspire.
- 14 (3) Summer Institute in Science, Technology,
15 Engineering, and Research.

16 **SEC. 4. PLAN.**

17 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-
19 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
20 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
21 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan for how
22 NASA can best facilitate and support both current and
23 retired astronauts, scientists, engineers, and innovators,
24 including early career female astronauts, scientists, engi-
25 neers, and innovators, to engage with K–12 female STEM

1 students and inspire the next generation of women to con-
2 sider participating in the fields of science, technology, en-
3 gineering, and mathematics and to pursue careers in aero-
4 space. This plan shall—

5 (1) report on existing activities with current
6 and retired NASA astronauts, scientists, engineers,
7 and innovators;

8 (2) identify how NASA could best leverage ex-
9 isting authorities to facilitate and support current
10 and retired astronaut, scientist, engineer, and inno-
11 vator participation in NASA outreach efforts;

12 (3) propose and describe a program specific to
13 retired astronauts, scientists, engineers, and
14 innovators; and

15 (4) identify any additional authorities necessary
16 to institute such a program.

○