

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 425

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

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

AN ACT

To promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes.

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 “Supporting Veterans
3 in STEM Careers Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
7 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

8 (2) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation”
9 means the National Science Foundation.

10 (3) STEM.—The term “STEM” has the mean-
11 ing given the term in section 2 of the America COM-
12 PETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
13 6621 note).

14 (4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
15 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
16 United States Code.

17 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING VETERANS IN STEM EDUCATION AND**
18 **COMPUTER SCIENCE.**

19 (a) SUPPORTING VETERAN INVOLVEMENT IN SCI-
20 ENTIFIC RESEARCH AND STEM EDUCATION.—The Di-
21 rector shall, through the research and education activities
22 of the Foundation, encourage veterans to study and pur-
23 sue careers in STEM and computer science, in coordina-
24 tion with other Federal agencies that serve veterans.

25 (b) VETERAN OUTREACH PLAN.—Not later than 180
26 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director

1 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and
2 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-
3 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
4 Senate a plan for how the Foundation can enhance its out-
5 reach efforts to veterans. Such plan shall—

6 (1) report on the Foundation’s existing out-
7 reach activities;

8 (2) identify the best method for the Foundation
9 to leverage existing authorities and programs to fa-
10 cilitate and support veterans in STEM careers and
11 studies, including teaching programs; and

12 (3) include options for how the Foundation
13 could track veteran participation in research and
14 education programs of the Foundation, and describe
15 any barriers to collecting such information.

16 (c) NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD INDICATORS RE-
17 PORT.—The National Science Board shall provide in its
18 annual report on indicators of the state of science and en-
19 gineering in the United States any available and relevant
20 data on veterans in science and engineering careers or
21 education programs.

22 (d) ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PRO-
23 GRAM UPDATE.—Section 10 of the National Science
24 Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-
25 1) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(5)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
3 “and” at the end;

4 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
5 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(C) higher education programs that serve
8 or support veterans.”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(F)—

10 (A) by striking “and students” and insert-
11 ing “, students”; and

12 (B) by inserting “, and veterans” before
13 the period at the end;

14 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “and vet-
15 erans” before the period at the end; and

16 (4) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “and vet-
17 erans” before the period at the end.

18 (e) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TEACHING
19 FELLOWSHIPS AND MASTER TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS
20 UPDATE.—Section 10A(d) of the National Science Foun-
21 dation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-
22 1a(d)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (3)(F)—

24 (A) by striking “and individuals” and in-
25 serting “, individuals”; and

1 (B) by inserting “, and veterans” before
2 the period at the end; and

3 (2) in paragraph (4)(B), by inserting “and vet-
4 erans” before the period at the end.

5 (f) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COMPUTER
6 AND NETWORK SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS
7 UPDATE.—Section 5(a) of the Cyber Security Research
8 and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(a)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and stu-
10 dents who are veterans” after “these fields”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (3)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and”
13 at the end;

14 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
15 subparagraph (K); and

16 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the
17 following:

18 “(J) creating opportunities for veterans to
19 transition to careers in computer and network
20 security; and”.

21 (g) GRADUATE TRAINEESHIPS IN COMPUTER AND
22 NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH UPDATE.—Section
23 5(c)(6)(C) of the Cyber Security Research and Develop-
24 ment Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(c)(6)(C)) is amended by insert-
25 ing “or veterans” after “disciplines”.

1 (h) VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES STEM
2 EDUCATION INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
4 Science and Technology Policy shall establish an
5 interagency working group to coordinate Federal
6 programs and policies for transitioning and training
7 veterans and military spouses for STEM careers.

8 (2) DUTIES OF INTERAGENCY WORKING
9 GROUP.—The interagency working group established
10 under paragraph (1) shall—

11 (A) coordinate any Federal agency STEM
12 outreach activities and programs for veterans
13 and military spouses; and

14 (B) develop and facilitate the implementa-
15 tion by participating agencies of a strategic
16 plan, which shall—

17 (i) specify and prioritize short- and
18 long-term objectives;

19 (ii) specify the common metrics that
20 will be used by Federal agencies to assess
21 progress toward achieving such objectives;

22 (iii) identify barriers veterans face in
23 reentering the workforce, including a lack
24 of formal STEM education, career guid-

1 ance, and the process of transferring mili-
2 tary credits and skills to college credits;

3 (iv) identify barriers military spouses
4 face in establishing careers in STEM
5 fields;

6 (v) describe the approaches that each
7 participating agency will take to address
8 administratively the barriers described in
9 clauses (iii) and (iv); and

10 (vi) identify any barriers that require
11 Federal or State legislative or regulatory
12 changes in order to be addressed.

13 (3) DUTIES OF OSTP.—The Director of the Of-
14 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall encour-
15 age and monitor the efforts of the Federal agencies
16 participating in the interagency working group to
17 ensure that the strategic plan required under para-
18 graph (2)(B) is developed and executed effectively
19 and that the objectives of such strategic plan are
20 met.

21 (4) REPORT.—The Director of the Office of
22 Science and Technology Policy shall—

23 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of
24 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress the

1 strategic plan required under paragraph (2)(B);
2 and

3 (B) include in the annual report required
4 by section 101(d) of the America COMPETES
5 Reauthorization Act a description of any
6 progress made in carrying out the activities de-
7 scribed in paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection.

8 (5) SUNSET.—The interagency working group
9 established under paragraph (1) shall terminate on
10 the date that is 5 years after the date that it is es-
11 tablished.

Passed the House of Representatives February 25,
2019.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.