

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4704

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2020

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

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## AN ACT

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

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 “Advancing Research  
5 to Prevent Suicide Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds the following:

8            (1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is  
9            on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per  
10           100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

11           (2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death  
12           among people in the United States and the second-  
13           leading cause of death for young people between the  
14           ages of 15 and 34.

15           (3) The National Science Foundation funds re-  
16           search that is improving our basic understanding of  
17           factors with potential relevance to suicide, including  
18           potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

19           (4) Despite progress in mental health research,  
20           current gaps exist in scientific understanding and  
21           basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive,  
22           perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental fac-  
23           tors with potential relevance to suicide.

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

2 (a) The Director of the National Science Foundation,  
3 in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes  
4 of Health and the Director of the National Institute on  
5 Mental Health where appropriate, shall, subject to the  
6 availability of appropriations, award grants on a competi-  
7 tive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of higher edu-  
8 cation (or consortia of such institutions) to support multi-  
9 disciplinary, fundamental research with potential rel-  
10 evance to suicide, including potential relevance to preven-  
11 tion and treatment, including but not limited to—

12 (1) basic understanding of human social behav-  
13 ior;

14 (2) the neural basis of human cognition;

15 (3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic,  
16 social, cultural and biological processes related to  
17 human development across the lifespan;

18 (4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor,  
19 and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in  
20 typical human behavior; and

21 (5) basic understanding of the relevance of drug  
22 and alcohol abuse.

23 (b) To promote the development of early career re-  
24 searchers, in awarding funds under subsection (a) the Na-  
25 tional Science Foundation shall encourage applications

