

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3293

To provide for greater accountability in Federal funding for scientific research, to promote the progress of science in the United States that serves that national interest.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. NEWHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To provide for greater accountability in Federal funding for scientific research, to promote the progress of science in the United States that serves that national interest.

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 “Scientific Research in
5 the National Interest Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN FEDERAL FUNDING**
2 **FOR RESEARCH.**

3 (a) STANDARD FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.—The Na-
4 tional Science Foundation shall award Federal funding for
5 basic research and education in the sciences through a new
6 research grant or cooperative agreement only if an affirm-
7 ative determination is made by the Foundation under sub-
8 section (b) and written justification relating thereto is
9 published under subsection (c).

10 (b) DETERMINATION.—A determination referred to
11 in subsection (a) is a justification by the responsible Foun-
12 dation official as to how the research grant or cooperative
13 agreement promotes the progress of science in the United
14 States, consistent with the Foundation mission as estab-
15 lished in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42
16 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and further—

17 (1) is worthy of Federal funding; and

18 (2) is in the national interest, as indicated by
19 having the potential to achieve—

20 (A) increased economic competitiveness in
21 the United States;

22 (B) advancement of the health and welfare
23 of the American public;

24 (C) development of an American STEM
25 workforce that is globally competitive;

1 (D) increased public scientific literacy and
2 public engagement with science and technology
3 in the United States;

4 (E) increased partnerships between aca-
5 demia and industry in the United States;

6 (F) support for the national defense of the
7 United States; or

8 (G) promotion of the progress of science
9 for the United States.

10 (c) WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION.—Public announce-
11 ment of each award of Federal funding described in sub-
12 section (a) shall include a written justification from the
13 responsible Foundation official as to how a grant or coop-
14 erative agreement meets the requirements of subsection
15 (b).

16 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—A determination under sub-
17 section (b) shall be made after a research grant or cooper-
18 ative agreement proposal has satisfied the Foundation’s
19 reviews for Merit and Broader Impacts. Nothing in this
20 section shall be construed as altering the Foundation’s in-
21 tellectual merit or broader impacts criteria for evaluating
22 grant applications.

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