

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 144

To forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. LUCAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program.

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 “Supporting Early-Ca-
5 reer Researchers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Nation’s universities and industrial re-
9 search labs are facing unprecedented budget pres-
10 sure as part of the COVID–19 health crisis, result-

1 ing in considerably fewer openings for research and
2 teaching positions.

3 (2) Emergency funding is needed to forestall
4 the loss of research talent likely to occur if early-ca-
5 reer researchers are forced to seek employment out-
6 side of research due to the sharp economic decline
7 caused by the COVID–19 health crisis.

8 **SEC. 3. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
10 Science Foundation may establish a 2-year pilot program
11 to award grants to highly qualified early-career investiga-
12 tors to carry out an independent research program at the
13 institution of higher education chosen by such investi-
14 gator, to last for a period not greater than 2 years.

15 (b) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DE-
16 FINED.—The term “institution of higher education” has
17 the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

19 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
21 tor of the National Science Foundation \$250,000,000 for
22 each of fiscal years 2021 through 2022 to carry out the
23 activities in this Act.

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