

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3397

To direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2017

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. BEYER, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. CRIST, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. SOTO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood.

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 “Building Blocks of
5 STEM Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The National Science Foundation has made
9 the largest financial investment in STEM education

1 of all Federal agencies, and plays a very powerful
2 role in helping to set research and policy agendas.

3 (2) Studies have found that children who en-
4 gage in scientific activities from an early age develop
5 positive attitudes toward science and are more likely
6 to pursue STEM expertise and careers later on.

7 (3) However, the majority of current research
8 focuses on increasing STEM opportunities for stu-
9 dents in middle school and older.

10 (4) Women remain widely underrepresented in
11 the STEM workforce and this gender disparity ex-
12 tends down through all levels of education. Strategic
13 funding of programs is needed in order to under-
14 stand and address the root cause of this gap.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) **EARLY CHILDHOOD.**—The term “early
18 childhood” applies to children from birth through
19 the age of 10.

20 (2) **STEM.**—The terms “STEM” means
21 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,
22 including computer science.

1 **SEC. 4. SUPPORTING STEM RESEARCH ON EARLY CHILD-**
2 **HOOD.**

3 In awarding grants under the Discovery Research
4 PreK–12 program, the Director of the National Science
5 Foundation shall consider age distribution in order to
6 more equitably allocate funding for research studies with
7 a focus on early childhood.

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