

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 42

To inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Mr. HELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

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 “Inspiring the Next  
5 Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers  
6 (INSPIRE) Women Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress finds that—

9 (1) NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS are virtual  
10 mentoring programs using commercially available

1 video chat programs to pair National Aeronautics  
 2 and Space Administration mentors with young stu-  
 3 dents anywhere in the country. NASA GIRLS and  
 4 NASA BOYS give young students the opportunity to  
 5 interact and learn from real engineers, scientists,  
 6 and technologists.

7 (2) The Aspire to Inspire (A2I) program en-  
 8 gages young girls to present science, technology, en-  
 9 gineering, and mathematics (STEM) career opportu-  
 10 nities through the real lives and jobs of early career  
 11 women at NASA.

12 (3) The Summer Institute in Science, Tech-  
 13 nology, Engineering, and Research (SISTER) pro-  
 14 gram at the Goddard Space Flight Center is de-  
 15 signed to increase awareness of, and provide an op-  
 16 portunity for, female middle school students to be  
 17 exposed to and explore nontraditional career fields  
 18 with Goddard Space Flight Center women engineers,  
 19 mathematicians, scientists, technicians, and re-  
 20 searchers.

21 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE**  
 22 **FIELDS OF AEROSPACE AND SPACE EXPLO-**  
 23 **RATION.**

24 The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and  
 25 Space Administration shall encourage women and girls to

1 study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,  
2 pursue careers in aerospace, and further advance the Na-  
3 tion's space science and exploration efforts through sup-  
4 port of the following initiatives:

5 (1) NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS.

6 (2) Aspire to Inspire.

7 (3) Summer Institute in Science, Technology,  
8 Engineering, and Research.

9 **SEC. 4. PLAN.**

10 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment  
11 of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-  
12 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House  
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,  
14 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan for how  
15 NASA can best facilitate and support both current and  
16 retired astronauts, scientists, engineers, and innovators,  
17 including early career female astronauts, scientists, engi-  
18 neers, and innovators, to engage with K–12 female STEM  
19 students and inspire the next generation of women to con-  
20 sider participating in the fields of science, technology, en-  
21 gineering, and mathematics and to pursue careers in aero-  
22 space. This plan shall—

23 (1) report on existing activities with current  
24 and retired NASA astronauts, scientists, engineers,  
25 and innovators;

1           (2) identify how NASA could best leverage ex-  
2           isting authorities to facilitate and support current  
3           and retired astronaut, scientist, engineer, and inno-  
4           vator participation in NASA outreach efforts;

5           (3) propose and describe a program specific to  
6           retired astronauts, scientists, engineers, and  
7           innovators; and

8           (4) identify any additional authorities necessary  
9           to institute such a program.

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