

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 29

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for increased diversity and inclusion in the tech sector, and increased access to opportunity in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the need for increased diversity and inclusion in the tech sector, and increased access to opportunity in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) education.

Whereas there will be 1,400,000 new tech jobs by 2020, however, 70 percent of those jobs will be unfulfilled at the rate United States universities are currently producing qualified graduates;

Whereas in 2013, the United States slipped to 10th place among Organization for Economic Co-operation and De-

velopment (OECD) nations in overall research and development as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP);

Whereas communities of color (African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders) are woefully underrepresented in corporate leadership roles, including the technology sector;

Whereas African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately underrepresented in the technology sector;

Whereas African-Americans and Latinos make up 27 percent of the United States workforce, but make up only 13.8 percent of the science and engineering workforce, and only 11 percent of computer science professionals;

Whereas women make up 57.7 percent of the United States workforce, but make up only 46.0 percent of the science and engineering workforce, and only 24 percent of computer science professionals;

Whereas women of color represent less than 10 percent of all computer science professionals (African-American: 2.6 percent; Hispanic: 1.3 percent; American Indian or Alaska Native: less than 0.02 percent; and Asian: 6 percent);

Whereas 50 to 70 percent of employees in tech companies work in non-tech positions, for which an existing pipeline of qualified African-American and Latinos currently exists;

Whereas a pipeline of qualified technical candidates is critical as the tech industry improves its recruiting, hiring, and retaining candidates and employees of color;

Whereas underrepresented minority students overall face an opportunity gap in STEAM education;

Whereas women of color particularly face an achievement gap in science and engineering education;

Whereas in 2012, women received 48.8 percent of all bachelor's degrees in science and engineering majors;

Whereas in 2012, women of color received only 15.7 percent of all bachelor's degrees in science and engineering majors (African-American: 5.3 percent; Hispanic: 5.5 percent; American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.3 percent, and Asian or Pacific Islander: 4.6 percent);

Whereas women overall face a large opportunity gap in computer science;

Whereas in 2012, women received only 18 percent of all bachelor's degrees in computer science;

Whereas in 2012, women of color received only 6.6 percent of all bachelor's degrees in computer science (African-American: 3.0 percent; Hispanic: 1.7 percent; American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.1 percent, and Asian or Pacific Islander: 1.8 percent);

Whereas the opportunity and achievement gap between boys and girls starts early;

Whereas in 2015, less than 15 percent of high schools offered the Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science course;

Whereas in 2015, only 22 percent of AP Computer Science test takers were girls, and 13 percent were African-American or Latino; and

Whereas there is a dearth of disaggregated data to show academic attainment across different Asian American and Pacific Islander communities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring), That Congress supports efforts to—*

1 (1) increase diversity and inclusion in the tech-
2 nology sector, including robust plans to ensure re-
3 cruitment, training, and retention of underrep-
4 resented minorities at all levels, from the boardroom
5 to the senior executive level, to rank and file employ-
6 ees, as well as vendors;

7 (2) eliminate barriers faced by people of color,
8 and other underrepresented groups when breaking
9 into the technology sector;

10 (3) ensure all students have access to science,
11 technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics
12 (STEAM) education for a 21st century economy, in-
13 cluding computer science education in particular;

14 (4) strengthen investments in, and collabora-
15 tions with educational institutions including commu-
16 nity colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Univer-
17 sities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Asian American
18 and Native American Pacific Islander-serving insti-
19 tutions, American Indian Tribally controlled colleges
20 and universities, Alaska Native and Native Hawai-
21 ian-serving institutions, predominantly Black institu-
22 tions, Native American-serving, Nontribal institu-
23 tions, and other minority-serving institutions to sus-
24 tain a pipeline of diverse STEAM graduates ready
25 to enter the technology sector; and

- 1 (5) improve data collection, disaggregation, and
- 2 dissemination of information for greater under-
- 3 standing and transparency of diversity in STEAM
- 4 education and across the workforce.

