

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-
- sure as part of the COVID-19 health crisis, result-

- ing in considerably fewer openings for research and
 teaching positions.
- 3 (2) Emergency funding is needed to forestall
 4 the loss of research talent likely to occur if early-ca5 reer researchers are forced to seek employment out6 side of research due to the sharp economic decline
- 6 side of research due to the sharp economic decline

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

caused by the COVID-19 health crisis.

- 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.

- 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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