

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4323

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 20, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Veterans
3 in STEM Careers Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
7 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

8 (2) **FOUNDATION.**—The term “Foundation”
9 means the National Science Foundation.

10 (3) **STEM.**—The term “STEM” has the mean-
11 ing given the term in section 2 of the America COM-
12 PETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
13 6621 note).

14 (4) **VETERAN.**—The term “veteran” has the
15 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
16 United States Code.

17 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING VETERANS IN STEM EDUCATION AND**
18 **COMPUTER SCIENCE.**

19 (a) **SUPPORTING VETERAN INVOLVEMENT IN SCI-**
20 **ENTIFIC RESEARCH AND STEM EDUCATION.**—The Di-
21 rector shall, through the research and education activities
22 of the Foundation, encourage veterans to study and pur-
23 sue careers in STEM and computer science, in coordina-
24 tion with other Federal agencies that serve veterans.

25 (b) **VETERAN OUTREACH PLAN.**—Not later than 90
26 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director

1 shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and
2 Technology of the House of Representatives and the Com-
3 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
4 Senate a plan for how the Foundation can enhance its out-
5 reach efforts to veterans. Such plan shall—

6 (1) report on the Foundation’s existing out-
7 reach activities;

8 (2) identify the best method for the Foundation
9 to leverage existing authorities and programs to fa-
10 cilitate and support veterans in STEM careers and
11 studies, including teaching programs; and

12 (3) identify a method for the Foundation to
13 track veteran participation in research and edu-
14 cation programs of the Foundation, and describe
15 any barriers to collecting such information.

16 (c) NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD INDICATORS RE-
17 PORT.—The National Science Board shall provide in its
18 annual report on indicators of the state of science and en-
19 gineering in the United States any available and relevant
20 data on veterans in science and engineering careers or
21 education programs.

22 (d) ROBERT NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PRO-
23 GRAM UPDATE.—Section 10 of the National Science
24 Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-
25 1) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(5)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
3 “and” at the end;

4 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
5 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(C) higher education programs that serve
8 or support veterans.”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(F)—

10 (A) by striking “and students” and insert-
11 ing “, students”; and

12 (B) by inserting “, and veterans” before
13 the period at the end;

14 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “and vet-
15 erans” before the period at the end; and

16 (4) in subsection (d)(2), by inserting “and vet-
17 erans” before the period at the end.

18 (e) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TEACHING
19 FELLOWSHIPS AND MASTER TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS
20 UPDATE.—Section 10A(d) of the National Science Foun-
21 dation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-
22 1a(d)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (3)(F)—

24 (A) by striking “and individuals” and in-
25 serting “, individuals”; and

1 (B) by inserting “, and veterans” before
2 the period at the end; and

3 (2) in paragraph (4)(B), by inserting “and vet-
4 erans” before the period at the end.

5 (f) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COMPUTER
6 AND NETWORK SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS
7 UPDATE.—Section 5(a) of the Cyber Security Research
8 and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(a)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and stu-
10 dents who are veterans” after “these fields”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (3)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and”
13 at the end;

14 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as
15 subparagraph (K); and

16 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the
17 following:

18 “(J) creating opportunities for veterans to
19 transition to careers in computer and network
20 security; and”.

21 (g) GRADUATE TRAINEESHIPS IN COMPUTER AND
22 NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH UPDATE.—Section
23 5(c)(6)(C) of the Cyber Security Research and Develop-
24 ment Act (15 U.S.C. 7404(c)(6)(C)) is amended by insert-
25 ing “or veterans” after “disciplines”.

1 (h) VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES STEM
2 EDUCATION INTERAGENCY SUBCOMMITTEE.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
4 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a sub-
5 committee under the Committee on STEM Edu-
6 cation of the National Science and Technology
7 Council (established under section 101 of the Amer-
8 ica COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010) to
9 coordinate Federal programs and policies for
10 transitioning and training veterans and military
11 spouses for STEM careers.

12 (2) DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEE.—The sub-
13 committee established under paragraph (1) shall—

14 (A) coordinate Federal agency STEM out-
15 reach activities and programs for veterans and
16 military spouses; and

17 (B) develop and facilitate the implementa-
18 tion by participating agencies of a strategic
19 plan, which shall—

20 (i) specify and prioritize short- and
21 long-term objectives;

22 (ii) specify the common metrics that
23 will be used by Federal agencies to assess
24 progress toward achieving such objectives;

1 (iii) identify barriers veterans face in
2 reentering the workforce, including a lack
3 of formal STEM education, career guid-
4 ance, and the process of transferring mili-
5 tary credits and skills to college credits;

6 (iv) identify barriers military spouses
7 face in establishing careers in STEM
8 fields;

9 (v) describe the approaches that each
10 participating agency will take to address
11 administratively the barriers described in
12 clauses (iii) and (iv); and

13 (vi) identify any barriers that require
14 Federal or State legislative or regulatory
15 changes in order to be addressed.

16 (3) DUTIES OF OSTP.—The Director of the Of-
17 fice of Science and Technology Policy shall encour-
18 age and monitor the efforts of the Federal agencies
19 participating in the subcommittee to ensure that the
20 strategic plan required under paragraph (2)(B) is
21 developed and executed effectively and that the ob-
22 jectives of such strategic plan are met.

23 (4) REPORT.—The Director of the Office of
24 Science and Technology Policy shall—

1 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of
2 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress the
3 strategic plan required under paragraph (2)(B);
4 and

5 (B) include in the annual report required
6 by section 101(d) of the America COMPETES
7 Reauthorization Act a description of any
8 progress made in carrying out the activities de-
9 scribed in paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection.

Passed the House of Representatives December 19,
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.