

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 255

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11, 2017

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

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## AN ACT

To authorize the National Science Foundation to support  
entrepreneurial programs for women.

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 “Promoting Women in  
3 Entrepreneurship Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) women make up almost 50 percent of the  
7 workforce, but less than 25 percent of the workforce  
8 in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
9 (STEM) professions;

10 (2) women are less likely to focus on the STEM  
11 disciplines in undergraduate and graduate study;

12 (3) only 26 percent of women who do attain de-  
13 grees in STEM fields work in STEM jobs;

14 (4) there is an increasing demand for individ-  
15 uals with STEM degrees to extend their focus be-  
16 yond the laboratory so they can be leaders in dis-  
17 covery commercialization;

18 (5) studies have shown that technology and  
19 commercialization ventures are successful when  
20 women are in top management positions; and

21 (6) the National Science Foundation’s mission  
22 includes supporting women in STEM disciplines.

23 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURIAL PRO-**  
24 **GRAMS.**

25 Section 33 of the Science and Engineering Equal Op-  
26 portunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
2           (10);

3           (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
4           graph (11) and inserting “; and”; and

5           (3) by adding at the end the following new  
6           paragraph:

7           “(12) encourage its entrepreneurial programs to  
8           recruit and support women to extend their focus be-  
9           yond the laboratory and into the commercial  
10          world.”.

        Passed the House of Representatives January 10,  
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*