

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8938

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out activities to support biotechnology workforce pathways and alignment with Federal research investments, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2026

Mr. McCORMICK (for himself and Mr. KHANNA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out activities to support biotechnology workforce pathways and alignment with Federal research investments, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Biotechnology Work-
5 force Alignment Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. NSF SUPPORT FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE**
2 **PATHWAYS AND ALIGNMENT WITH FEDERAL**
3 **RESEARCH INVESTMENTS.**

4 (a) **ALIGNMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE**
5 **PRIORITIES.—**

6 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, in coordina-
7 tion with the heads of relevant Federal agencies,
8 shall carry out activities to support the integration
9 of Federal biotechnology research investments with
10 workforce development activities.

11 (2) **WORKFORCE PRIORITY AREAS.**—In carrying
12 out paragraph (1), the Director shall identify high-
13 demand biotechnology workforce areas, including the
14 following:

15 (A) Biomanufacturing and bioprocess engi-
16 neering.

17 (B) Synthetic biology.

18 (C) Bioinformatics and computational biol-
19 ogy.

20 (D) Omics, such as genomics and
21 proteomics.

22 (E) Regulatory science and quality assur-
23 ance.

24 (F) Such other areas as the Director de-
25 termines appropriate.

1 (b) PATHWAYS, ENGAGEMENT, AND PARTNER-
2 SHIPS.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall
3 carry out the following:

4 (1) Support the development of a workforce
5 framework, including relating to workforce cat-
6 egories, work roles, and competency areas, for bio-
7 technology.

8 (2) Disseminate information on, and support
9 educational and career pathways with multiple entry
10 and exit points for, students and early-career re-
11 searchers leading to credentials and degrees in bio-
12 technology workforce areas.

13 (3) Promote participation in internships, ap-
14 prenticeships, cooperative education programs, and
15 other hands-on training opportunities.

16 (4) Support partnerships among institutions of
17 higher education (including community colleges and
18 minority-serving institutions), Federal laboratories,
19 nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities.

20 (5) Disseminate best practices for workforce de-
21 velopment activities.

22 (c) COORDINATION WITH INDUSTRY.—In carrying
23 out this section, the Director shall, to the extent prac-
24 ticable, carry out the following:

1 (1) Coordinate with private sector entities en-
2 gaged in biotechnology research, development, or
3 manufacturing.

4 (2) Support model frameworks for industry-aca-
5 demic partnerships.

6 (3) Encourage alignment between workforce
7 training programs and evolving industry needs.

8 (d) METRICS AND EVALUATION.—The Director shall
9 develop metrics to assess the following:

10 (1) Workforce gaps in biotechnology careers.

11 (2) Barriers to entry into biotechnology careers.

12 (3) The effectiveness of coordination and part-
13 nerships under this section.

14 (e) INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—The
15 Director shall, to the extent practicable, carry out this sec-
16 tion through integration with existing National Science
17 Foundation programs and activities.

18 (f) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter for
20 six years, the Director shall submit to the Committee on
21 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
23 and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes
24 the following:

1 (1) An assessment of workforce gaps in bio-
2 technology careers.

3 (2) A description of activities carried out under
4 this section.

5 (3) An evaluation of outcomes associated with
6 workforce development activities.

7 (4) An assessment of the position of the United
8 States biotechnology workforce in maintaining global
9 leadership in biotechnology relative to key competitor
10 and near-peer countries.

11 (5) Recommendations for actions to strengthen
12 Federal coordination relating to biotechnology initia-
13 tives and workforce development activities.

14 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

15 (1) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—The term “bio-
16 technology” means the use of biological systems, or-
17 ganisms, or derivatives thereof to develop or manu-
18 facture products, including biomanufacturing, bio-
19 process engineering, synthetic biology, genomics,
20 proteomics, and computational biology applications.

21 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
22 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

23 (3) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—
24 The term “workforce development activities” in-
25 cludes internships, apprenticeships, cooperative edu-

- 1 cation, experiential learning, skills-based training,
- 2 and related activities that prepare individuals for
- 3 employment in biotechnology careers.

