

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 9177

To amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out a mentorship demonstration program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2026

Ms. McCLELLAN (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out a mentorship demonstration program, 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 “Improving Mentorship  
5 in STEM Higher Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MENTORSHIP DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM; NA-**  
2 **TIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION REPORTING.**

3 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Section 10313(a)  
4 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Inno-  
5 vation Act (42 U.S.C. 18993) is amended by adding at  
6 the end the following:

7 “(6) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may  
9 make awards, including through existing pro-  
10 grams, on a competitive basis to eligible entities  
11 to carry out projects designed to improve  
12 mentorship practices and provide resources for  
13 faculty, graduate researchers, and postdoctoral  
14 researchers at the eligible entity, including with  
15 respect to—

16 “(i) building and developing men-  
17 toring skills in such researchers and fac-  
18 ulty;

19 “(ii) promoting evidence-based and in-  
20 stitutionalized mentorship at the eligible  
21 entity;

22 “(iii) researching methodologies for  
23 improving mentorship;

24 “(iv) training such researchers and  
25 faculty in cultural competencies; and

1                   “(v) funding outreach related to such  
2                   projects.

3                   “(B) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity de-  
4                   siring an award under this subsection shall sub-  
5                   mit to the Director an application at such time,  
6                   in such form, and containing such information  
7                   as the Director may require.

8                   “(C) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In mak-  
9                   ing awards under this subsection, the Director  
10                  shall give special consideration to eligible enti-  
11                  ties that are—

12                   “(i) minority-serving institutions;

13                   “(ii) historically Black colleges and  
14                  universities;

15                   “(iii) Tribal Colleges or Universities;

16                   “(iv) rural-serving institutions of  
17                  higher education (as such term is defined  
18                  in section 861(b) of the Higher Education  
19                  Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161q(b)));

20                   “(v) emerging research institutions;  
21                  and

22                   “(vi) consortia that include institu-  
23                  tions described in clauses (i) through (v).

24                   “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years  
25                  after the date of the enactment of this para-

1 graph, the Director shall submit to the Com-  
2 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology and  
3 the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
4 of Representatives and the Committee on Com-  
5 merce, Science, and Transportation and the  
6 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a  
7 report that includes—

8 “(i) an assessment, using qualitative  
9 or quantitative metrics as determined by  
10 the Director, of the effectiveness of the  
11 demonstration program carried out under  
12 this paragraph on increasing the quality of  
13 mentorship in STEM education; and

14 “(ii) if such assessment determines  
15 that such program is effective, a plan to  
16 sustain and permanently implement such  
17 program.

18 “(E) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For  
19 purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘eligible  
20 entity’ means—

21 “(i) an institution of higher education  
22 (as such term is defined in section 101 of  
23 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
24 U.S.C. 1001));

25 “(ii) a nonprofit organization; and

1                   “(iii) a consortium of entities de-  
2                   scribed in clauses (i) and (ii).

3                   “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
4                   TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-  
5                   priated to carry out this paragraph \$5,000,000,  
6                   for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

7                   (b) MISCONDUCT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Sec-  
8                   tion 7009 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C.  
9                   1862o–1) is amended—

10                   (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as  
11                   paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

12                   (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
13                   lowing:

14                   “(2) institutional and agency reporting proc-  
15                   esses with respect to harassment, discrimination,  
16                   and other forms of professional or scientific mis-  
17                   conduct;”.

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