

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3639

To establish a position of Science Laureate of the United States, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2017

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CRIST, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. SLAUGHTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish a position of Science Laureate of the United
States, 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 “Science Laureates of
5 the United States Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND RECOGNITION.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Scientific research and advancement has
2 driven success in the United States and global suc-
3 cess for centuries.

4 (2) Scientific research has saved, improved, and
5 extended lives, increased the standard of living, ex-
6 panded economic opportunity, and advanced human
7 understanding.

8 (3) Such research holds the promise of con-
9 tinuing this progress, protecting the environment,
10 creating jobs, growing the economy through innova-
11 tive ideas and discoveries, and generally advancing
12 all mankind.

13 (4) People in the United States can benefit
14 when scientific research is conducted and commu-
15 nicated in a transparent manner to better inform
16 citizens about the nature and status of such re-
17 search.

18 (5) Scientific education is a critical element of
19 preparing our Nation and our citizens for a tech-
20 nology-intensive future and ensuring that the United
21 States remains the world leader in innovation and
22 high-tech success.

23 (6) A spokesperson who can embody, dem-
24 onstrate, and articulate the importance and excite-
25 ment of scientific research and education will help

1 improve the current and future state of science to
2 the benefit of all people in the United States.

3 (b) CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION.—Congress rec-
4 ognizes that science contributes to the economic prosperity
5 and general welfare of the United States, and that increas-
6 ing the public’s awareness about the sciences will increase
7 such benefits. Congress also recognizes that scientists who
8 are both accomplished in their fields and who foster the
9 public’s interest in science do a special service to the
10 United States.

11 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENCE LAUREATES OF THE**
12 **UNITED STATES.**

13 (a) POSITION ESTABLISHED.—The National Science
14 Foundation shall establish the position of Science Lau-
15 reate of the United States to honor the service of sci-
16 entists.

17 (b) APPOINTMENT BY NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDA-
18 TION.—The Science Laureate of the United States shall
19 be appointed by the National Science Foundation from
20 among individuals nominated under subsection (c).

21 (c) NOMINATIONS BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
22 SCIENCES.—

23 (1) AGREEMENT.—The National Science Foun-
24 dation shall seek to enter into an agreement with the

1 National Academy of Sciences to perform the serv-
2 ices covered by this subsection.

3 (2) NOMINATION.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement
5 between the National Science Foundation and
6 the National Academy of Sciences under this
7 subsection, the National Academy of Sciences
8 shall, not less frequently than once each year
9 and except as provided in subparagraph (D),
10 nominate three individuals to serve as the
11 Science Laureate.

12 (B) BASIS.—Nomination under subpara-
13 graph (A) shall be on the basis of merit, par-
14 ticularly the ability of an individual to—

15 (i) foster and enhance public aware-
16 ness and interest in science; and

17 (ii) provide ongoing significant sci-
18 entific contributions.

19 (C) VARIETY OF SCIENTIFIC DIS-
20 CIPLINES.—In nominating individuals under
21 subparagraph (A), the National Academy of
22 Sciences shall strive to nominate individuals, in
23 different years, from different scientific dis-
24 ciplines, including biology, physics, geosciences,

1 astronomy, mathematics, chemistry, and other
2 science disciplines.

3 (D) EXCEPTION.—The National Academy
4 of Sciences shall not make any nominations
5 under this paragraph for a year if the National
6 Science Foundation notifies the National Acad-
7 emy of Sciences that such nominations are un-
8 necessary because the National Science Foun-
9 dation intends to extend the term of the current
10 Science Laureate pursuant to subsection (f).

11 (d) DUTIES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Science Laureate shall
13 engage the public, from time to time, to increase the
14 public’s awareness about science.

15 (2) CONTINUATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORK.—A
16 Science Laureate is encouraged to continue the
17 Science Laureate’s scientific work.

18 (3) FACILITATION OF DUTIES.—The National
19 Science Foundation shall facilitate the duties of a
20 Science Laureate and the Science Laureate may ac-
21 cept assistance from the National Academy of
22 Sciences in carrying out such duties.

23 (e) LIMITATION.—The Science Laureate position
24 shall not have the effect of duplicating or superseding the
25 role of the President’s Science Advisor.

1 (f) TERM.—Each Science Laureate shall serve a 1-
2 year term and may be reappointed by the National Science
3 Foundation for additional terms as the National Science
4 Foundation considers appropriate.

5 (g) COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT.—

6 (1) COMPENSATION.—Notwithstanding any
7 other provision of law, a Science Laureate shall
8 serve without pay and shall not be considered to be
9 a Federal employee based on such individual's ap-
10 pointment as a Science Laureate.

11 (2) REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL.—The Na-
12 tional Science Foundation may provide a Science
13 Laureate with reimbursement for travel expenses in-
14 curred while performing duties as a Science Lau-
15 reate, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in
16 accordance with applicable provisions in the same
17 manner as persons employed intermittently in the
18 Government service are allowed expenses under sec-
19 tion 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

○