

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4354

To require reporting by the National Science Foundation on requests for funding research that were not granted and had the greatest potential for promoting scientific progress and advancing national health, prosperity, and welfare, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require reporting by the National Science Foundation on requests for funding research that were not granted and had the greatest potential for promoting scientific progress and advancing national health, prosperity, and welfare, 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 “Missed Opportunities
5 in Science and Engineering Research Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTING BY NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUN-**
2 **DATION ON MISSED OPPORTUNITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 30 of each
4 fiscal year starting with fiscal year 2017 through fiscal
5 year 2021, the Director of the National Science Founda-
6 tion (in this section, referred to as the “Director”) shall
7 submit to Congress a report on the fiscal health of the
8 National Science Foundation research enterprise and the
9 volume of worthy but unfunded grant proposals submitted
10 to the National Science Foundation in the preceding fiscal
11 year. Such report shall identify—

12 (1) the success rate of grant applications re-
13 viewed during such fiscal year;

14 (2) the top two grant applications reviewed dur-
15 ing such fiscal year that were not selected for fund-
16 ing; and

17 (3) if the success rate described in paragraph
18 (1) is less than 32 percent, the top applications for
19 grants that were not selected for funding but would
20 have been so selected if the Foundation had achieved
21 a success rate of 32 percent or greater for the fiscal
22 year.

23 (b) TRADE SECRETS AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMA-
24 TION.—This section does not authorize the Secretary to
25 disclose any information that is a trade secret or confiden-
26 tial information subject to section 552(b)(4) of title 5,

1 United States Code, or section 1905 of title 18, United
2 States Code.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) SUCCESS RATE.—The term “success rate”
5 means the percentage of grant applications reviewed
6 by the Director that received funding.

7 (2) TOP.—The term “top”, with respect to a
8 grant application, means that such application has
9 been determined by the Director to have greater po-
10 tential than any other grant applications submitted
11 to the Director for—

12 (A) promoting any field of fundamental
13 science or engineering;

14 (B) advancing the national health, pros-
15 perity, and welfare; or

16 (C) securing the national defense.

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