

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 42

To inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Mr. HELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

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 “Inspiring the Next
5 Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers
6 (INSPIRE) Women Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress finds that—

9 (1) NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS are virtual
10 mentoring programs using commercially available

1 video chat programs to pair National Aeronautics
2 and Space Administration mentors with young stu-
3 dents anywhere in the country. NASA GIRLS and
4 NASA BOYS give young students the opportunity to
5 interact and learn from real engineers, scientists,
6 and technologists.

7 (2) The Aspire to Inspire (A2I) program en-
8 engages young girls to present science, technology, en-
9 gineering, and mathematics (STEM) career opportu-
10 nities through the real lives and jobs of early career
11 women at NASA.

12 (3) The Summer Institute in Science, Tech-
13 nology, Engineering, and Research (SISTER) pro-
14 gram at the Goddard Space Flight Center is de-
15 signed to increase awareness of, and provide an op-
16 portunity for, female middle school students to be
17 exposed to and explore nontraditional career fields
18 with Goddard Space Flight Center women engineers,
19 mathematicians, scientists, technicians, and re-
20 searchers.

21 **SEC. 3. SUPPORTING WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE**
22 **FIELDS OF AEROSPACE AND SPACE EXPLO-**
23 **RATION.**

24 The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and
25 Space Administration shall encourage women and girls to

1 study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,
2 pursue careers in aerospace, and further advance the Na-
3 tion's space science and exploration efforts through sup-
4 port of the following initiatives:

5 (1) NASA GIRLS and NASA BOYS.

6 (2) Aspire to Inspire.

7 (3) Summer Institute in Science, Technology,
8 Engineering, and Research.

9 **SEC. 4. PLAN.**

10 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Com-
12 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
14 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan for how
15 NASA can best facilitate and support both current and
16 retired astronauts, scientists, engineers, and innovators,
17 including early career female astronauts, scientists, engi-
18 neers, and innovators, to engage with K–12 female STEM
19 students and inspire the next generation of women to con-
20 sider participating in the fields of science, technology, en-
21 gineering, and mathematics and to pursue careers in aero-
22 space. This plan shall—

23 (1) report on existing activities with current
24 and retired NASA astronauts, scientists, engineers,
25 and innovators;

1 (2) identify how NASA could best leverage ex-
2 isting authorities to facilitate and support current
3 and retired astronaut, scientist, engineer, and inno-
4 vator participation in NASA outreach efforts;

5 (3) propose and describe a program specific to
6 retired astronauts, scientists, engineers, and
7 innovators; and

8 (4) identify any additional authorities necessary
9 to institute such a program.

○