



Combating Sexual Harassment in Science

Title V: Broadening Participation in Science
Division B: Research & Innovation
H.R. 4521, the America COMPETES Act

The nation at large has made important strides in dealing with the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and its impact on the lives and careers of women, but the work is far from over. Survey data show 58% of women in the academic workplace experience sexual harassment, the second highest rate when compared to the military, private sector, and government. In 2018, the National Academies released a landmark report that examined the factors that foster an environment tolerant of sexual harassment and the impact this has on the careers of women in academia. The *Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019* addresses key recommendations from the report and builds on steps science agencies have taken to combat sexual harassment in the scientific workplace.

The legislation will:

- Establish a National Science Foundation program to award grants for research into the factors contributing to and the consequences of sexual harassment in the scientific workforce;
- Collect data on the prevalence of sexual harassment in the sciences;
- Direct the Office of Science and Technology Policy to issue sexual harassment policy guidelines for agencies awarding extramural research grants, emphasizing the importance of information sharing among Federal science agencies;
- Convene an Interagency Working Group to coordinate Federal science agency efforts to implement policy changes to address sexual harassment.
- Direct the National Academies to issue an updated responsible conduct in research guide addressing sexual harassment;
- Direct the National Academies to conduct a follow-up study to their 2018 report to assess the progress of efforts to combat sexual harassment.
- Authorize \$17.4 million to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out the activities in the Act.