

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515


The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

The American Physiological Society (APS) is pleased to endorse H.R. 204, the STEM Opportunities Act. APS strongly supports the objectives of the legislation while also recognizing the need for Congress to appropriate funds to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the programs this legislation would authorize.

Broadening participation in the STEM workforce is an important goal that APS as a scientific society considers to be one of our core values. The multi-pronged approach outlined in H.R. 204 would improve our understanding of current barriers to participation, while also addressing those obstacles through increased attention and resources. The proposed policies, data collection, workshops and grant programs address critical needs, and the NSF is well-positioned to carry out these functions. At the same time, we recognize that creating these new programs will require significant resources. We therefore urge Congress to ensure that NSF's future appropriations provide sufficient funding for the agency to carry out the provisions of H.R. 204 without compromising other mission-critical areas including basic research and STEM education.

Sincerely,



Linda C. Samuelson, PhD  
President



Scott Steen, CAE, FAESE  
Executive Director

*Physiology is a broad area of scientific inquiry that focuses on how molecules, cells, tissues and organs function in health and disease. The American Physiological Society connects a global, multidisciplinary community of more than 10,000 biomedical scientists and educators as part of its mission to advance scientific discovery, understand life and improve health. The Society drives collaboration and spotlights scientific discoveries through its 16 scholarly journals and programming that support researchers and educators in their work.*