



**AMERICAN  
SOCIETY FOR  
MICROBIOLOGY**

April 16, 2019

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is pleased to endorse H.R. 36, the Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019. ASM is the largest single life science society, composed of more than 32,000 scientists and health professionals. Our mission is to promote and advance the microbial sciences, including programs and initiatives funded by the federal government departments and agencies, by virtue of the pervasive role of microorganisms in health and society.

ASM and its members are committed to promoting an environment that allows for the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas and promotes equal opportunities and respectful treatment for all. The best science is conducted when research environments are diverse and inclusive, regardless of gender, race or ethnicity, religious affiliation or sexual orientation. Harassment in any form or for any reason undermines the facilitation of good science.

We commend the Committee's efforts to address sexual harassment in the scientific workplace and wherever it exists, as we believe government has an important role to play in terms of convening stakeholders, authorizing data collection, and funding research to better understand the factors that contribute to sexual harassment. Recognizing the important role that societies play in ensuring a safe and inclusive environment, we recently joined more than 50 other scientific organizations to launch the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine). Together, the members of this consortium will do our part to advance professional and ethical conduct, climate, and culture across their respective fields.

ASM applauds you for your attention to this important issue, and we stand ready to assist you with passage of this legislation. Should you have any questions, please contact Allen Segal, Director, ASM Public Policy and Advocacy, at (202) 942-9294 or [asegal@asmusa.org](mailto:asegal@asmusa.org).

Sincerely,

Stacey L. Schultz-Cherry, PhD  
Incoming Chair  
ASM Policy and Scientific Affairs Committee

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