

January 15, 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 Society for Microbiology (ASM) strongly supports legislation that fosters diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) fields. As one of the oldest and largest life science societies, composed of 30,000 scientists and health professionals in the United States and around the world, our mission is to promote and advance the microbial sciences. ASM appreciates the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee's ongoing bipartisan commitment to basic, translational, and applied research and the infrastructure needed to support that research.

The best science is conducted when research environments are diverse and inclusive. Harassment in any form or for any reason undermines the facilitation of good science. To that end, ASM supports and strongly encourages swift passage of the:

- Combatting Sexual Harassment in STEM Act, which addresses the pervasive nature of sexual harassment in academia;
- STEM Opportunities Act, which provides guidance, data collection, and grants for groups historically underrepresented in STEM education at institutions of higher education (IHEs) and at federal science agencies; and the
- MSI STEM Achievement Act, which supports efforts to increase STEM education at minority-serving institutions of higher education.

We strongly support the Committee's efforts to foster a diverse and inclusive workforce, as we believe government has an important role to play in terms of efforts to both increase diversity and to prevent and respond to discrimination and harassment. Together, we can promote an environment that both allows for the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas and promotes equal opportunities and respectful treatment for all. ASM and its members look forward to the next steps in this endeavor and stand ready to assist you. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss these comments, please contact me at [asegal@asmusa.org](mailto:asegal@asmusa.org) or 202-942-9294.

Sincerely,



Allen D. Segal  
ASM Director of Public Policy and Advocacy