



CRA

Computing Research
Association

September 4, 2020

**Statement of the Computing Research Association
on
*H.R. 8044, the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act***

The Computing Research Association is pleased to offer its endorsement of the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act (H.R. 8044), which would create a new postdoctoral fellowship program at the National Science Foundation to aid early career researchers whose employment opportunities are adversely affected by the COVID crisis.

CRA has experience with similar efforts focused on the computing fields and can attest to their importance during times of economic and employment uncertainty, and their effectiveness in sustaining the research trajectories of top graduates and thus preserving the nation's investment in their education. From 2009 to 2011, with the support of NSF, CRA created and ran the Computing Innovation Fellowship program, which provided postdoctoral positions for 187 fellows for 1 or 2 years during the economic downturn, helping them weather the crisis and achieve long-term success as computing researchers. In 2020, against the backdrop of economic and employment uncertainty created by the pandemic, and again with the support of NSF, we have reestablished the CIFellows program and are preparing to announce our first cohort of 59 postdoctoral fellows for 2020-21. Like the CIFellows program, the postdoc support envisioned by H.R. 8044 will help exciting, innovative, and important research continue during this crisis, while also ensuring that these young, bright minds can continue in their fields and be well-prepared to ensure America's scientific leadership in the future.

We commend Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas, as well as Reps. Don Beyer, Mike Garcia, Dan Lipinski, Randy Weber, Suzanne Bonamici, Anthony Gonzalez, Paul Tonko and Steve Cohen for introducing this timely and important bill, and we look forward to working with them as the bill moves towards passage.