

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4704

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2019

Mr. MCADAMS (for himself, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BALDERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Research
5 to Prevent Suicide Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is
4 on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per
5 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

6 (2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death
7 among people in the United States and the second-
8 leading cause of death for young people between the
9 ages of 15 and 34.

10 (3) The National Science Foundation funds re-
11 search that is improving our basic understanding of
12 factors with potential relevance to suicide, including
13 potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

14 (4) Despite progress in mental health research,
15 current gaps exist in scientific understanding and
16 basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive,
17 perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental fac-
18 tors with potential relevance to suicide.

19 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

20 (a) The Director of the National Science Foundation,
21 in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes
22 of Health and the Director of the National Institute on
23 Mental Health where appropriate, shall award grants on
24 a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institutions of high-
25 er education (or consortia of such institutions) to support
26 multidisciplinary, fundamental research with potential rel-

1 evance to suicide, including potential relevance to preven-
2 tion and treatment, including but not limited to—

3 (1) basic understanding of human social behav-
4 ior;

5 (2) the neural basis of human cognition;

6 (3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic,
7 social, cultural, and biological processes related to
8 human development across the lifespan; and

9 (4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor,
10 and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in
11 typical human behavior.

12 (b) To promote the development of early career re-
13 searchers, in awarding funds under subsection (a) the Na-
14 tional Science Foundation shall encourage applications
15 submitted by early career researchers, including doctoral
16 students or postdoctoral researchers.

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