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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. GARCIA of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program.

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 “Supporting Early-Ca-
5 reer Researchers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Nation’s universities and industrial re-
2 search labs are facing unprecedented budget pres-
3 sure as part of the COVID–19 health crisis, result-
4 ing in considerably fewer openings for research and
5 teaching positions.

6 (2) Emergency funding is needed to forestall
7 the loss of research talent likely to occur if early-ca-
8 reer researchers are forced to seek employment out-
9 side of research due to the sharp economic decline
10 caused by the COVID–19 health crisis.

11 **SEC. 3. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
13 Science Foundation may establish a 2-year pilot program
14 to award grants to highly qualified early-career investiga-
15 tors to carry out an independent research program at the
16 institution of higher education chosen by such investi-
17 gator, to last for a period not greater than 2 years.

18 (b) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DE-
19 FINED.—The term “institution of higher education” has
20 the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

22 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
24 tor of the National Science Foundation \$250,000,000 for

- 1 each of fiscal years 2021 through 2022 to carry out the
- 2 activities in this Act.