

STATEMENT

**Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Markup of: *HR. 3397, the "Building Blocks of STEM Act"*  
November 15, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Smith. I want to thank Ms. Rosen and Ms. Comstock for introducing H.R. 3397, the *Building Blocks of STEM Act*. Ms. Rosen has been a champion for increasing the participation of girls in computer science since she joined the Science Committee, and I commend her for her efforts. A research article published in the journal *Science* earlier this year revealed that girls begin to view intelligence as a male trait as early as 6 years old. This attitude has a profound impact on educational and career choices made by young women.

H.R. 3397 directs NSF to support research into factors that contribute to the early adoption of these stereotypes and scalable models for intervention to prevent or reverse the effects of these negative and erroneous stereotypes.

I strongly support this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.