

STATEMENT

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

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Markup of: *HR. 4254, the "Women in Aerospace Education Act"*  
November 15, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Smith. I want to thank Mr. Knight and Ms. Esty for introducing H.R. 4254, the *Women in Aerospace Education Act*.

This year we saw NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson break the record for cumulative time spent in space by a U.S. astronaut. Dr. Whitson is an inspiration for girls pursuing aerospace careers, but her success is not widely shared by women throughout the aerospace sector. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that in 2016, women made up only 8 percent of aerospace engineers. H.R. 4254 will help address the underrepresentation of women in aerospace.

I strongly support passage of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.