

STATEMENT

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Markup of: *H.R. 4323, the "Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act"*

November 15, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Smith. I want to thank Mr. Dunn and Mr. Takano for introducing H.R. 4323, the *Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act*.

Veterans are an experienced group of dedicated individuals that for far too long have remained a largely untapped source of talent in our nation's STEM workforce. Projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics predict that workforce needs in STEM fields like computer science are outpacing our capacity to educate and train students in these fields.

H.R. 4323 is a step toward forestalling these projected gaps by leveraging the pool of skilled veterans to strengthen our STEM workforce.

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

I yield back the balance of my time.