

STATEMENT

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

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Markup of: *HR. 4375, the “STEM Research and Education Effectiveness Transparency Act”*

November 15, 2017

I want to thank Chairwoman Comstock for introducing H.R. 4375, The STEM Research and Education Effectiveness Transparency Act. I am pleased to cosponsor this good legislation. H.R. 4375 is a small but important step forward for addressing long-standing gaps in achievement and participation in the sciences. Research has shown that the observed shortages of women and minorities in STEM fields are not due to a lack of interest.

To better understand the barriers faced by women and underrepresented minority groups in STEM, researchers and policy-makers need access to better data on what really works to improve the recruitment and retention of women and minorities in STEM studies and careers. Importantly, we must also collect data that would reveal any inequities that originate within the federal agencies themselves, even if unintentionally. The bill directs the National Science Foundation to compile and report on all available data on the effectiveness of its portfolio of broadening participation programs. NSF must also identify what additional data would be needed to understand what makes programs effective. I commend NSF on the strides it has taken in recent years to accelerate its efforts to address the underrepresentation of women and minorities in STEM, but we need to ensure they are producing results.

This bill also includes one provision from my *STEM Opportunities Act* that requires all federal science agencies to collect and report annually on data for all research grant applications and awards. These data are essential to uncovering any inequities in federal funding for STEM research, and to developing smart policies to address the implicit biases that are typically behind such inequities.

I continue to ask my friend Chairman Smith to take up the entirety of my *STEM Opportunities Act*, which has been very well vetted by many experts. I am encouraged by this first small step, so I won't give up.

Thank you, I yield back the balance of my time.