



CRA

Computing Research
Association

May 12, 2017

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member, House Science, Space,
& Technology Committee
2468 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Johnson,

As an organization representing over 240 industry and academic institutions involved in computing research and six affiliated professional societies, the Computing Research Association is pleased to support your efforts to expand the inclusion of women and underrepresented groups in STEM fields through the *STEM Opportunities Act of 2017*. We believe the bill places important and appropriate focus on the need for increased diversity in the STEM fields and the benefits that would accrue to U.S. innovation and competitiveness from a research community that represents the broadest range of views, outlooks, and experiences.

As you note in the legislation, the computing research community suffers from an underrepresentation of women and minorities within its ranks, a situation CRA and our fellow societies within the community are working hard to improve. We are pleased at the inclusion of a number of provisions in the bill that will help those efforts to improve participation rates in computing. Provisions directing the National Science Foundation to support efforts designed to increase the diversity among STEM faculty in higher education, and support for diversity efforts in undergraduate STEM education, will be particularly useful.

Thank you for your work on this legislation and for continuing to work on expanding inclusion and engagement of all groups in the STEM fields. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues as you endeavor to move this legislation forward this session.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Davidson
Chair, Board of Directors