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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. COMSTOCK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Research and Develop-
5 ment Efficiency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.**

7 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that—

1 (1) high and increasing administrative burdens
2 and costs in Federal research administration, par-
3 ticularly in the higher education sector where most
4 federally sponsored research is performed, are erod-
5 ing funds available to carry out basic scientific re-
6 search;

7 (2) progress has been made over the last decade
8 in streamlining the pre-award grant application
9 process through Grants.gov, the Federal Govern-
10 ment's website portal;

11 (3) post-award administrative costs have grown
12 as Federal research agencies have continued to im-
13 pose agency-unique compliance and reporting re-
14 quirements on researchers and research institutions;

15 (4) facilities and administration costs at re-
16 search universities can exceed 50 percent of the total
17 value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated
18 that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annu-
19 ally in federally funded research is consumed by pa-
20 perwork and other administrative processes required
21 by Federal agencies; and

22 (5) it is a matter of critical importance to
23 American competitiveness that administrative costs
24 of federally funded research be streamlined so that

1 a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into di-
2 rect research activities.

3 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
4 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working
5 group under the authority of the National Science and
6 Technology Council, to include the Office of Management
7 and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for
8 reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and re-
9 search universities and making recommendations on how
10 to—

11 (1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate dupli-
12 cative Federal regulations and reporting require-
13 ments; and

14 (2) minimize the regulatory burden on United
15 States institutions of higher education performing
16 federally funded research while maintaining account-
17 ability for Federal tax dollars.

18 (c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the re-
19 sponsibilities under subsection (b), the working group
20 shall take into account input and recommendations from
21 non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and
22 nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher
23 education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations,
24 nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small
25 businesses, federally funded research and development

1 centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness,
2 efficiency, and accountability in the performance of sci-
3 entific research.

4 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3
6 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on
7 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
9 and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been
10 taken to carry out the recommendations of the working
11 group established under subsection (b).