FLOOR STATEMENT

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

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

H.R. 4254 - Women in Aerospace Education Act

December 18, 2017

I rise in support of H.R. 4254, the Women in Aerospace Education Act. I want to thank Mr. Knight and Ms. Esty for introducing this bill.

Women continue to be woefully underrepresented in the aerospace sector. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women made up only 8 percent of aerospace engineers last year. While we are inspired by the career of NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, who holds the U.S. record for days in space, we must do more to ensure that successes like hers are the rule and not the exception.

H.R. 4254 will help address the underrepresentation of women at all levels of aerospace education and in the workforce by prioritizing the recruitment of qualified women to apply for NASA internships and fellowships. Some of these women will go on to be STEM teachers, and others will have research or industry careers. They will all benefit from participating in NASA programs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.