FLOOR STATEMENT

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

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

H.R. 4375 - STEM Research and Education Effectiveness Transparency Act

December 18, 2017

I rise in support of H.R. 4375, the STEM Research and Education Effectiveness Transparency Act. I am pleased to be a cosponsor this bill and I thank Research Subcommittee Chairwoman Comstock for introducing it.

Research shows that the underrepresentation of women and minorities in STEM fields is not due to a lack of interest or motivation. There are real, institutional and cultural barriers preventing talented individuals from realizing their dreams of working in STEM careers. We must better understand these barriers so that we may develop and support the most effective policies and programs.

H.R. 4375 directs NSF to report on the effectiveness of its current portfolio of broadening participation programs.

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.

This would enable researchers to conduct a cross-agency assessment of the participation and success of federal grant applicants across demographic groups. With information about the participation and success of women and minorities throughout the process of applying for federal research funding, including such details as the award size, we can identify and root out any inequities that reflect implicit bias in the process. This bill is a small, but important step in the right direction toward ensuring equitable access to STEM education and careers.

I want to take a moment to advocate for this House considering my *STEM Opportunities Act*, H.R. 2653, in its entirety. That would allow us to continue the steps we are taking today to broaden participation in STEM in our country.

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