

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2014

To demonstrate a commitment to our Nation’s scientists by increasing opportunities for the development of our next generation of researchers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To demonstrate a commitment to our Nation’s scientists by increasing opportunities for the development of our next generation of researchers.

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 “Next Generation Re-
5 searchers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF RE-**
2 **SEARCHERS.**

3 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 404M. NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS.**

7 “(a) NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS INITIA-
8 TIVE.—There shall be established within the Office of the
9 Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Next
10 Generation of Researchers Initiative (referred to in this
11 section as the ‘Initiative’), through which the Director
12 shall coordinate all policies and programs within the Na-
13 tional Institutes of Health aimed at promoting and pro-
14 viding opportunities for new researchers and earlier re-
15 search independence.

16 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—The Director of NIH, through the
17 Initiative shall—

18 “(1) promote policies and programs within the
19 National Institutes of Health that are aimed at im-
20 proving opportunities for new researchers and pro-
21 moting earlier research independence, including ex-
22 isting policies and programs such as the Pathway to
23 Independence Award, the NIH Director’s New Inno-
24 vator Award, the Early Independence Award, and
25 Early-Stage Investigator grant review procedures;

1 “(2) develop, modify, or accelerate policies, as
2 needed, within the National Institutes of Health to
3 promote opportunities for new researchers and ear-
4 lier research independence, including policies to en-
5 hance training opportunities for research-related ca-
6 reer options, strengthen mentorship programs be-
7 tween new and veteran researchers, enhance work-
8 force diversity efforts, and help to improve new re-
9 searchers’ success in obtaining renewal funding;

10 “(3) coordinate with appropriate agencies and
11 academic institutions to develop systems to enhance
12 workforce data for biomedical postdoctoral research-
13 ers and students to help improve tracking of trainees
14 and career progress; and

15 “(4) carry out other activities, as appropriate,
16 to promote the development of the next generation
17 of researchers and earlier research independence.

18 “(c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

19 “(1) STUDY.—The Director of NIH shall re-
20 quest the National Academy of Sciences, as part of
21 the studies conducted under section 489, to conduct
22 a comprehensive study on policies affecting the next
23 generation of researchers in the United States. Such
24 study shall include an evaluation of, and strategies
25 to address, the legislative, administrative, edu-

1 cational, and cultural barriers to providing for a suc-
2 cessful next generation of researchers and to pro-
3 mote earlier research independence.

4 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the
5 date of enactment of the Next Generation Research-
6 ers Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall sub-
7 mit to the Director, the Committee on Health, Edu-
8 cation, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on
9 Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on
10 Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ap-
11 propriations of the House of Representatives, a re-
12 port concerning the results of the study conducted
13 under paragraph (1). Such report shall include—

14 “(A) an evaluation of the legislative, ad-
15 ministrative, educational, and cultural barriers
16 faced by the next generation of researchers;

17 “(B) an evaluation of the impact of se-
18 questration resulting from the Budget Control
19 Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) and Federal
20 budget constraints on the next generation of re-
21 searchers; and

22 “(C) recommendations for the implementa-
23 tion of policies to incentivize, improve entry
24 into, and sustain careers in research for the
25 next generation of researchers and to promote

1 earlier research independence, including pro-
2 posed policies for agencies and academic insti-
3 tutions.”.

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