

Rep. Ellen Tauscher Authors Amendment to Expand Science and Engineering Grants

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CONTACT: Kevin Lawlor (202) 225-1880

<http://www.tauscher.house.gov/>

Rep. Ellen Tauscher Authors Amendment to Expand Science and Engineering Grants.

Amendment levels playing field for scientists, researchers and engineers pursuing non-traditional careers and those taking maternity leave.

Washington , DC – Today the House of Representatives unanimously passed a bipartisan amendment, authored by Rep. Ellen Tauscher, to H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act.

The Amendment expands eligibility for National Science Foundation Early Career Awards to thousands of scientists and engineers who have followed alternative career paths such as working part-time or in non-academic settings, or who have taken a significant career break or other leave of absence.

In particular, the Amendment levels the playing field for women scientists who have taken maternity leave, and for all scientists and engineers who have taken internships, worked in industry, or who have pursued an entrepreneurial effort.

Additionally, the Amendment expands the scope of the Presidential Innovation Award to recognize and reward innovations that result in intellectual property that substantively enhances the economic competitiveness of the United States .

Rep. Tauscher delivered the following statement on the floor of the House in support of the Amendment:

Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher

Floor Statement

H.R. 363

Mr. Speaker,

I have an amendment at the desk.

I want to thank Chairman Gordon for reporting these two critical bills out of the Science Committee: one focused on math and science education and the second on science and engineering.

Taken together, these two bills are a critical step toward restoring our American technological base as well as giving students, engineers and researchers the tools needed to compete in a global economy.

And, they are a great way to kick off the Innovation Agenda – an effort that’s vital to America’s competitiveness, economy and security – and an effort the New Democrat Coalition, which I chair, is proud to be leading.

I am proud to offer a bipartisan amendment with my friend Congresswoman Judy Biggert of the Science Committee.

Our amendment would expand eligibility for National Science Foundation Early Career Awards to thousands of scientists and engineers previously deemed ineligible.

These men and women have followed alternative career paths such as working part-time or in non-academic settings, or have taken a significant career break or other leave of absence.

In particular, our amendment would level the playing field for women scientists who have taken maternity leaves, and for all scientists and engineers who have taken internships, worked in industry, or who have pursued an entrepreneurial effort.

I want to stress that the amendment would not mandate or set aside any part of the award.

It would simply insert language drawing attention to researchers and engineers in this category and the importance of their contributions.

The amendment also would expand the scope of the Presidential Innovation Award to recognize and reward innovations that result in intellectual property that significantly enhances the economic competitiveness of the United States .

I strongly support Speaker Pelosi's and Chairman Gordon's efforts to promote a strong Innovation Agenda that grows our economy and creates more jobs.

I appreciate working with Judy Biggert on this issue and ask my colleagues to support our amendment.

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