

HR 4002

Relieving Economic Strain to Enhance American Resilience and Competitiveness in Higher Education and Research Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jun 12, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. (Jun 12, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4002>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McClellan, Jennifer L. [D-VA-4]

Party: Democratic • **State:** VA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (22 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
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Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Oct 20, 2023
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jan 5, 2024
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Jan 25, 2024
Rep. Thanhediar, Shri [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jan 25, 2024
Rep. Williams, Nikema [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Feb 7, 2024
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Feb 13, 2024
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Apr 19, 2024
Rep. Frost, Maxwell [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Aug 2, 2024
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Sep 23, 2024
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Dec 17, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Science, Space, and Technology Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 12, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 12, 2023)

Relieving Economic Strain to Enhance American Resilience and Competitiveness in Higher Education and Research Act or the RESEARCHER Act

This bill requires executive guidance and policy changes with respect to the compensation and benefits afforded to graduate and postdoctoral researchers.

Specifically, the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy must develop a set of policy guidelines for federal agencies to address the financial instability of graduate and postdoctoral researchers. The guidelines must address certain issues, including stipends that are appropriately indexed to cost-of-living adjustments, health care benefits, and affordable housing and child care. Federal agencies must develop policies that are consistent with such guidelines within six months of the guidelines' issuance.

Additionally, the National Science Foundation must (1) provide awards to institutions of higher education or nonprofits to collect data on the financial instability of graduate and postdoctoral researchers, and (2) contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to report on stipends for graduate and postdoctoral researchers relative to their cost-of-living expenses.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the implementation of relevant policy changes.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 12, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 12, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.