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The American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)

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Rockville, MD - The American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) issued the following statement on its endorsement of [H.R. 204, the STEM Opportunities Act](#):

A robust federal research enterprise relies on the recruitment and retention of women, minorities, rural students, and other underserved populations. To cultivate and access these pools of STEM talent, ASPET endorses H.R. 204, the bipartisan STEM Opportunities Act introduced by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30) and Rep. Frank Lucas (OK-03).

The STEM Opportunities Act directs the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to develop evidence-based practices to promote the progress of underrepresented groups in STEM studies and research careers. The bill requires federal science agencies to collect demographic data on all grant applicants; instructs agencies to implement policies for minimizing the impact of implicit bias in reviews of grant applications; directs OSTP to provide guidance to agencies on policies for supporting principal investigators with caregiving responsibilities; directs OSTP to issue guidance to universities and federal labs on best practices for addressing cultural and institutional barriers to recruiting and retaining STEM workers from underrepresented groups; and directs NSF to administer research grants to evaluate the data collected and policies implemented as a result of the act.

To maximize our country's federal research potential, we must identify, recruit, and retain top talent from our workforce. ASPET looks forward to working with Congress to ensure passage of this important bill.

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The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) is a 4,000 member scientific society whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research and work for academia, government, large pharmaceutical companies, small biotech companies, and non-profit organizations.