

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5819

To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that scientists are being funded at the age when they are most likely to make breakthroughs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2014

Mr. HARRIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that scientists are being funded at the age when they are most likely to make breakthroughs.

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 “Funding Scientists at  
5 the Peak Age of Discovery Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FUNDING SCIENTISTS AT PEAK AGE OF DISCOVERY.**

7 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act  
8 (42 U.S.C. 283 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 404M. FUNDING SCIENTISTS AT PEAK AGE OF DIS-**  
2 **COVERY.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall en-  
4 sure that the median age of first-time researchers receiv-  
5 ing grants in the R series from the institutes, centers, and  
6 offices of the National Institutes of Health—

7 “(1) by January 1, 2019, is under 40 years of  
8 age;

9 “(2) by January 1, 2022, is under 39 years of  
10 age; and

11 “(3) by January 1, 2025, is under 38 years of  
12 age.

13 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply  
14 with respect to grants in the R series which are deter-  
15 mined by the head of the respective institute, center, or  
16 office to be within any of the following categories:

17 “(1) Small business innovation research.

18 “(2) Small business technology transfer.

19 “(3) Clinical trial planning.

20 “(c) DEFINITION.—In this section:

21 “(1) The term ‘first-time researcher’ means a  
22 researcher who has not previously served as the  
23 principal investigator for a research project sup-  
24 ported by the National Institutes of Health through  
25 a grant in the R series.

1           “(2) The term ‘R series’ refers the category of  
2 grants that are designated by the National Institutes  
3 of Health to be covered by—

4                   “(A) the activity code relating to ‘research  
5 projects’ (as such activity code is in effect on  
6 the date of enactment of this section); or

7                   “(B) any successor activity code.”.

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