

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 20, 2018

Dr. France A. Córdova, Director  
National Science Foundation  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Director Córdova,

We are writing in support of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) proposed reforms regarding sexual harassment, in light of the National Academies report released last week, *Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*.

As this report pointed out, sexual harassment harms scientific research when women are unable to work in an environment that is supportive of their ideas and contributions to the field. We strongly believe that harassment must be treated just like any other research misconduct to protect research integrity and foster an environment that is conducive to productive and fruitful research. We are highly concerned that sexual harassment represents a serious and dangerous barrier to the important contribution women make to scientific research. We are also concerned about the disproportionate burden that sexual harassment places on women of color and LGBTQ scientists.

We are pleased to see that the NSF recently proposed policies to require institutions to notify the NSF of findings of harassment by personnel on new grants and the institution's response to those findings. The National Academies report recommends that institutions should "report to federal agencies when individuals on grants have been found to have violated sexual harassment policies or have been put on administrative leave related to sexual harassment." We wholeheartedly support these recommendations.

We encourage the NSF to implement and enforce the final policy, after comments are reviewed, as swiftly as practicable. NSF-funded institutions should not only comply with reporting requirements, but they should also act in the spirit of these policies to ensure that everyone has access to a work and educational environment that is free of harassment.

Please keep us updated on the progress of these policies. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen the NSF's exceptional work and ensure that every scientist can work without the burden of harassment.

Sincerely,

Bill Foster

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Alma Adams

Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
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Suzanne Bonamici

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Salud O. Carbajal

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Katherine M. Clark

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Yvette D. Clarke

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Elizabeth H. Esty

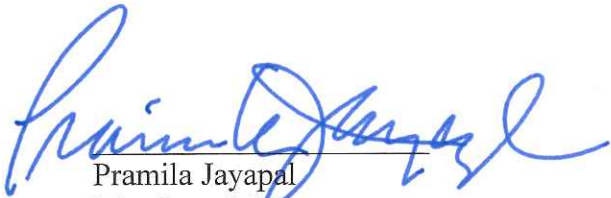
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

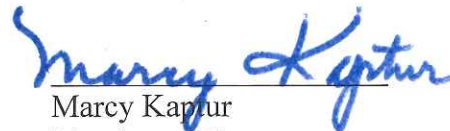
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Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress


Jared Huffman

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Member of Congress


  
Pramila Jayapal  
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Marcy Kaptur  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Doris Matsui  
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James P. McGovern  
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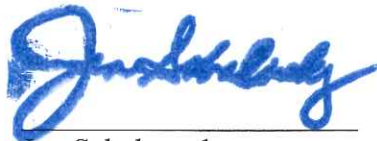
  
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