

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9436

To establish a National Science Foundation grant program to provide and strengthen opportunities for peer-led research regarding autism spectrum disorder and its characteristics in women, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 30, 2024

Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To establish a National Science Foundation grant program to provide and strengthen opportunities for peer-led research regarding autism spectrum disorder and its characteristics in women, and for other purposes.

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 “Supporting Peer-led
5 Efforts to Conduct Thoughtful Research and Understand
6 the Modalities of Autism in Women and Girls Act” or the
7 “SPECTRUM Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT PRO-**
2 **GRAM TO STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR**
3 **PEER-LED RESEARCH REGARDING AUTISM**
4 **SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

5 The Director of the National Science Foundation is
6 authorized to award grants on a competitive basis to sup-
7 port participatory research approaches into autism, in-
8 cluding with respect to women and girls. Such research
9 may include research into any of the following:

10 (1) Characteristics of autism in girls and
11 women, including the incidence of “masking”, “cam-
12 ouflaging”, or other psychosocial factors.

13 (2) Communication between autistic and
14 neurotypical women and girls, and the phenomenon
15 of the “double empathy problem” theory.

16 (3) Additional related topics at the discretion of
17 the Director.

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