

*Capito - 2 (as modified)**Shelley Moore Capito*

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide for hands-on learning opportunities in STEM education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1260

A bill to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mrs. CAPITO

Viz:

1 At the end of title I, add the following:

2 **SEC. 115. HANDS-ON LEARNING PROGRAM.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Developing a robust, talented, and home-
5 grown workforce, particularly in the fields of STEM,
6 is critical to the success of the United States innova-
7 tion economy.

8 (2) The United States educational system is not
9 producing a sufficient number of workers with the

1 necessary STEM expertise to meet the needs of the
2 United States industry in STEM fields.

3 (3) Hands-on and experiential learning opportu-
4 nities outside of the classroom are critical for stu-
5 dent success in STEM subjects and careers, stimu-
6 lating students' interest, increasing confidence, and
7 creating motivation to pursue a related career.

8 (4) Hands-on and experiential learning opportu-
9 nities can be particularly successful in inspiring in-
10 terest in students who traditionally have been under-
11 represented in STEM fields, including girls, students
12 of color, and students from disadvantaged back-
13 grounds.

14 (5) An expansion of hands-on and experiential
15 learning programs across the United States would
16 expand the STEM workforce pipeline, developing
17 and training students for careers in STEM fields.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—

19 (1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
20 school”, “high school”, “secondary school”, and
21 “State” have the meanings given the terms in sec-
22 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

24 (2) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT PROGRAM.—The
25 term “eligible nonprofit program”—

1 (A) means a nonprofit program serving
2 prekindergarten, elementary school, or sec-
3 ondary school students; and

4 (B) includes a program described in sub-
5 paragraph (A) that covers the continuum of
6 education from prekindergarten through high
7 school and is available in every State.

8 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
9 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

10 (4) STEM.—The term “STEM” means science,
11 technology, engineering, and mathematics.

12 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are
13 to—

14 (1) provide effective, compelling, and engaging
15 means for teaching and reinforcing fundamental
16 STEM concepts and inspiring the youth of the
17 United States to pursue careers in STEM-related
18 fields;

19 (2) expand the STEM workforce pipeline by de-
20 veloping and training students for careers in United
21 States STEM fields; and

22 (3) broaden participation in the STEM work-
23 force by underrepresented population groups.

24 (d) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
2 appropriations for such purposes, the Director
3 shall—

4 (A) provide grants to eligible nonprofit
5 programs for supporting hands-on learning op-
6 portunities in STEM education, including via
7 after-school activities and innovative learning
8 opportunities such as robotics competitions; and

9 (B) evaluate the impact of such hands-on
10 learning opportunities on STEM learning and
11 disseminate the results of that evaluation.

12 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the
13 program, the Director shall give priority to eligible
14 nonprofit programs serving students that attend ele-
15 mentary, secondary, or high schools that—

16 (A) are implementing comprehensive sup-
17 port and improvement activities or targeted
18 support and improvement activities under para-
19 graph (1) or (2) of section 1111(d) of the Ele-
20 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
21 (20 U.S.C. 6311(d)); or

22 (B) serve high percentages of students who
23 are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch
24 under the Richard B. Russell National School
25 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) (which, in

1 the case of a high school, may be calculated
2 using comparable data from the schools that
3 feed into the high school).

4 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—From
5 the amounts made available to carry out section 106 under
6 section 114 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026,
7 the Director shall use \$25,000,000 for each such fiscal
8 year to carry out this section.