

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST
SCOUTS OF AMERICA**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 85th anniversary of an organization that helps to develop our Nation's future leaders: The Girl Scouts of America. On November 14, 1997, I will join with Girl Scouts from the 5th District of Missouri in a nationwide camp-out to mark this important occasion. By working to develop the self-esteem and skills of girls at an early age, this group empowers these young women to make a successful transition to adulthood. I still carry with me the values I learned as a Girl Scout and credit many of my achievements to these early lessons. Whether it was learning the value of a hard-earned dollar through the sales of Girl Scout cookies, or how to make new friends and keep the old, my memories as a Girl Scout are some of my fondest. Girl Scouting provides a classroom without walls, and teaches girls compassion, leadership, and citizenship through community service embodied in its pledge: "On my honor, I will try: to serve God and my country. To help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout law. I will do my best: to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely to make the world a better place, and to be a sister to every Girl Scout." Mr. Speaker, please join with me in honoring the success of the Girl Scouts on their 85th anniversary, a truly American institution that brings out the very best in our young people.

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
ACT**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to support women in our changing economy, I am introducing the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act. Women account for more than 45 percent of the U.S. labor force; yet in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, they are underrepresented and face barriers in recruitment, retention, and advancement.

According to the Department of Labor, only 8.7 percent of electrical engineers are women. That's lower than the percentage of female clergy, 11 percent. Among technology jobs, computer programming attracts the most women; 29 percent are female.

High-technology companies are part of the fastest-growing U.S. industry, which dominates both domestic and world markets. Yet these companies are battling a very serious shortage of skilled high-technology professionals. If the lack of women hinders the growth of this industry, then it will hold back the Nation's economy.

Statistics show that the percentage of degrees awarded to women in science at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral level is higher than the percentage of women actually pursuing careers in science. Women make up about a third of science students, but only a fifth of science professionals. Consequently, women are still a great, untapped source of creative science thinking as the United States moves into the next century. Science needs to increase its percentage of women professionals.

The American Medical Association reports that the number of women physicians has quadrupled in the last 20 years. While women are becoming more commonplace in the medical profession, they still are nudged away from technology, from attitudes at colleges and universities to the cultural drawbacks in computer companies.

While we, as a nation, are growing more aware of problems that beset women in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, few policies have been implemented to combat the problems women are facing in these occupations. Now, more than ever, we need a broad research project to consolidate information and identify intervention models that work.

The Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act would set up a commission to study the barriers that women face in these fields. The commission would identify and examine the number of women in science, engineering, and technology and the specific occupations where they are underrepresented. The commission also would describe the practices and policies of employers relating to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women scientists and engineers. The commission then would determine if these practices and policies are comparable to their male counterparts, and issue recommendations to government, academia, and private industry based on successful programs.

In addition, the bill directs the National Science Foundation [NSF] to conduct a study of the educational opportunities available to women who want to enter the fields of science, engineering, and technology. The NSF then must report its findings within 1 year and issue recommendations to Congress on how to improve educational opportunities for women who wish to enter the fields of science, engineering, and technology.

Mr. Speaker, the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology would be a first step in countering the roadblocks for women in our rapidly evolving high-technology society. This bill would help women break through the "Glass Ceiling" and the "Silicon Ceiling" in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, and would bring our Nation closer to creating a highly effective high-technology economy for the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLINICAL
RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 1997**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Clinical Research En-

hancement Act of 1997. This legislation will better enable us to translate basic science discoveries into improvements in medical treatment. I am pleased to be joined by Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON as the primary cosponsor of this important legislation.

The difficulties faced by clinical researchers and their patients threaten progress in medicine and our country's international competitive edge in biomedical science. We are losing a generation of physician scientists because of limited research funding, medical tuition indebtedness, and obstacles created by our increasingly competitive health care system. While the Clinical Research Enhancement Act of 1997 cannot address all these problems, it can help us to recruit and retain talented clinical investigators to insure that advances in basic biomedical science are more readily translated into improvements in patient care.

In 1994, the Institute of Medicine [IOM] issued a groundbreaking report outlining the crisis facing clinical research. The IOM report found that numerous obstacles confront clinical researchers at various points in their careers. Furthermore, the IOM concluded that we simply are not training the number of clinical scientists necessary to address the rapid discoveries occurring in basic biomedicine. Studies by the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, and the National Institutes of Health have also highlighted the problems facing clinical research.

The Clinical Research Enhancement Act of 1997 will improve Federal support of clinical research by:

Improving the peer review process for clinical research grants and establishing innovative science awards that will be reviewed by scientists who are particularly knowledgeable about clinical research;

Strengthening the general clinical research centers [GCRC's] which now serve as the hub of NIH-supported extramural clinical research activity;

Enhancing the career development of clinical scientists by creating new awards that will be similar to existing NIH career awards but focused on clinical investigators who pursue initial research projects with a mentor prior to independent pursuit of research;

Creating innovative medical science awards for more established researchers in order to improve funding for projects involving potential clinical applications of a basic discovery which are tested on a small number of patients;

Providing support for scientists seeking advanced degrees in clinical investigation in order to address the need for structured, academic training in clinical investigation; and

Expanding the existing loan repayment program available to clinical researchers who are based at the NIH campus to make it available to NIH-supported clinical scientists at centers around the country.

The Clinical Research Enhancement Act of 1997 has the support of over 100 medical, scientific, and academic organizations. I want to especially commend the American Federation for Medical Research for their leadership on this important issue.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation which will help to ensure that our Federal investment in basic biomedical science is translated into improvements in medical care.

I request that the accompanying materials be included in the RECORD.

As a coalition of organizations concerned about improving the quality of health care,