

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To enhance public awareness of federally funded research and development projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FLAKE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To enhance public awareness of federally funded research and development projects, 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 “Federal Research
5 Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “agency” has the meaning given
9 the term in section 551 of title 5, United States
10 Code; and

1 (2) the term “covered study” means any study
2 that—

3 (A) is carried out in whole or in part with
4 Federal funds; and

5 (B) is published, presented at a conference
6 or meeting, or otherwise made publicly avail-
7 able.

8 **SEC. 3. FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH DISCLOSURES**
9 **AND DATABASE.**

10 (a) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATIVE RESEARCH FUND-
11 ING.—The Director of the Office of Management and
12 Budget shall coordinate with each agency that provides
13 funding to entities to carry out research and development
14 to establish a system to detect potential duplicative appli-
15 cations for funding in order to prevent duplicative fund-
16 ing.

17 (b) DATABASE OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH
18 AND DEVELOPMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall include in
20 a publicly accessible database a searchable listing of
21 each unclassified research and development project
22 that is funded by the agency, including a contract,
23 grant, cooperative agreement, or task order.

24 (2) CONTENTS.—A database described in para-
25 graph (1) shall, with respect to each unclassified re-

1 search and development project of an agency, con-
2 tain—

3 (A) the agency component that is carrying
4 out or providing funding or other assistance for
5 the project;

6 (B) the name of the project;

7 (C) an abstract or summary of the project;

8 (D) the funding level for the project;

9 (E) the duration of the project;

10 (F) the name of any contractor, subcon-
11 tractor, or grantee;

12 (G) the title of any published study funded
13 by or related to the project; and

14 (H) expected objectives and milestones for
15 the project.

16 (3) EXISTING DATABASE.—An agency may sat-
17 isfy the requirements under this subsection if the
18 Director of the Office of Management and Budget
19 determines that the agency maintains a publicly ac-
20 cessible database, including a database operated by
21 or shared with another agency, that substantially
22 meets the requirements of this subsection.

23 (c) REQUIREMENT FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN COV-
24 ERED STUDIES.—The acknowledgment section in each
25 covered study shall include—

1 (1) the name of each agency that provided
2 funding for the covered study;

3 (2) the project or award number associated
4 with the covered study; and

5 (3) an estimate of the total cost of the covered
6 study.

7 (d) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
9 United States shall conduct a study and make publicly
10 available a report, which shall—

11 (1) analyze the compliance of agencies, contrac-
12 tors, subcontractors, and grantees with the require-
13 ments of this Act;

14 (2) identify any obstacles that remain to pre-
15 vent the public from accessing the cost and findings
16 of covered studies and other research and develop-
17 ment projects funded by agencies; and

18 (3) analyze efforts by agencies to prevent dupli-
19 cative spending.