

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

At the end of title II, add the following new section:

1 SEC. 205. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.

2 (a) GRANTS.—The Director of the National Science
3 Foundation, through the Directorate for Education and
4 Human Resources, shall continue to award competitive,
5 merit-reviewed grants to support—

6 (1) research and development of innovative out-
7 of-school STEM learning and emerging STEM
8 learning environments in order to improve STEM
9 learning outcomes and engagement in STEM; and

10 (2) research that advances the field of informal
11 STEM education.

12 (b) USES OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants
13 under this section may encompass a single STEM dis-
14 cipline, multiple STEM disciplines, or integrative STEM
15 initiatives and shall include—

16 (1) research and development that improves our
17 understanding of learning and engagement in infor-
18 mal environments, including the role of informal en-

1 vironments in broadening participation in STEM;
2 and
3 (2) design and testing of innovative STEM
4 learning models, programs, and other resources for
5 informal learning environments to improve STEM
6 learning outcomes and increase engagement for K-
7 12 students, K-12 teachers, and the general public,
8 including design and testing of the scalability of
9 models, programs, and other resources.

