



June 20, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee
2318 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU) – an organization of America’s leading research universities – we thank and commend you for your leadership on the Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019 (H.R. 36). A safe and harassment-free work environment for all students, faculty, and personnel at our universities is essential to achieve the diversity, equity, and inclusion required for the United States to continue its global leadership in science and innovation.

As the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee prepares to mark-up H.R. 36, I wish to express our appreciation for your willingness to address concerns we raised with particular aspects of the legislation. Specifically, we are grateful to you and your staff for: clarifying the types of grant personnel covered under the bill; developing a clear definition of gender harassment separate from the definition of sexual harassment; and working with us to try to address our concerns about the trigger for reporting sexual harassment to funding agencies. Important improvements have been made to the bill. We appreciate these improvements and welcome the continuing opportunity to work with you on this very important issue as the legislation advances in the process.

The Committee’s June 12 hearing, “Combating Sexual Harassment in Science,” underscored the need for the government, academia, and the broader science community to work together to combat the serious problem of sexual harassment in the scientific workplace.

AAU and its member-institutions thank you for your leadership and bipartisan efforts to craft meaningful federal policy on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Sue Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Sue Coleman
President