

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transi-
6 tion Authorization Act of 2017”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2017.

TITLE II—SUSTAINING NATIONAL SPACE COMMITMENTS

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress on sustaining national space commitments.

Sec. 202. Findings.

TITLE III—MAXIMIZING UTILIZATION OF THE ISS AND LOW-EARTH ORBIT

Sec. 301. Operation of the ISS.

Sec. 302. Transportation to ISS.

Sec. 303. ISS transition plan.

Sec. 304. Space communications.

Sec. 305. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services.

TITLE IV—ADVANCING HUMAN DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION

Subtitle A—Human Space Flight and Exploration Goals and Objectives

Sec. 411. Human space flight and exploration long-term goals.

Sec. 412. Key objectives.

Sec. 413. Vision for space exploration.

Sec. 414. Stepping stone approach to exploration.

Sec. 415. Update of exploration plan and programs.

Sec. 416. Repeals.

Sec. 417. Assured access to space.

Subtitle B—Assuring Core Capabilities for Exploration

Sec. 421. Space Launch System, Orion, and Exploration Ground Systems.

Subtitle C—Journey to Mars

Sec. 431. Findings on human space exploration.

Sec. 432. Human exploration roadmap.

Sec. 433. Advanced space suit capability.

Sec. 434. Asteroid robotic redirect mission.

Sec. 435. Mars 2033 report.

Subtitle D—TREAT Astronauts Act

Sec. 441. Short title.

Sec. 442. Findings; sense of Congress.

Sec. 443. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight.

TITLE V—ADVANCING SPACE SCIENCE

Sec. 501. Maintaining a balanced space science portfolio.

Sec. 502. Planetary science.

Sec. 503. James Webb Space Telescope.

Sec. 504. Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.

Sec. 505. Mars 2020 rover.

Sec. 506. Europa.

Sec. 507. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose.

Sec. 508. Extrasolar planet exploration strategy.

Sec. 509. Astrobiology strategy.

Sec. 510. Astrobiology public-private partnerships.

Sec. 511. Near-earth objects.

- Sec. 512. Near-Earth objects public-private partnerships.
- Sec. 513. Assessment of science mission extensions.
- Sec. 514. Stratospheric observatory for infrared astronomy.
- Sec. 515. Radioisotope power systems.
- Sec. 516. Assessment of Mars architecture.
- Sec. 517. Collaboration.

TITLE VI—AERONAUTICS

- Sec. 601. Sense of Congress on aeronautics.
- Sec. 602. Transformative aeronautics research.
- Sec. 603. Hypersonic research.
- Sec. 604. Supersonic research.
- Sec. 605. Rotorcraft research.

TITLE VII—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 701. Space technology infusion.
- Sec. 702. Space technology program.

TITLE VIII—MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY

Subtitle A—Agency Information Technology and Cybersecurity

- Sec. 811. Information technology governance.
- Sec. 812. Information technology strategic plan.
- Sec. 813. Cybersecurity.
- Sec. 814. Security management of foreign national access.
- Sec. 815. Cybersecurity of web applications.

Subtitle B—Collaboration Among Mission Directorates and Other Matters

- Sec. 821. Collaboration among mission directorates.
- Sec. 822. NASA launch capabilities collaboration.
- Sec. 823. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit parts.
- Sec. 824. Education and outreach.
- Sec. 825. Leveraging commercial satellite servicing capabilities across mission directorates.
- Sec. 826. Flight opportunities.
- Sec. 827. Sense of Congress on small class launch missions.
- Sec. 828. Baseline and cost controls.
- Sec. 829. Commercial technology transfer program.
- Sec. 830. Avoiding organizational conflicts of interest in major administration acquisition programs.
- Sec. 831. Protection of Apollo landing sites.
- Sec. 832. NASA lease of non-excess property.
- Sec. 833. Termination liability.
- Sec. 834. Independent reviews.
- Sec. 835. NASA Advisory Council.
- Sec. 836. Cost estimation.
- Sec. 837. Facilities and infrastructure.
- Sec. 838. Human space flight accident investigations.
- Sec. 839. Orbital debris.
- Sec. 840. Review of orbital debris removal concepts.
- Sec. 841. Space Act Agreements.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
4 tion” means the National Aeronautics and Space
5 Administration.

6 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
7 trator” means the Administrator of the National
8 Aeronautics and Space Administration.

9 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
10 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
11 gress” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
13 and Transportation of the Senate; and

14 (B) the Committee on Science, Space, and
15 Technology of the House of Representatives.

16 (4) CIS-LUNAR SPACE.—The term “cis-lunar
17 space” means the region of space from the Earth
18 out to and including the region around the surface
19 of the Moon.

20 (5) DEEP SPACE.—The term “deep space”
21 means the region of space beyond low-Earth orbit,
22 to include cis-lunar space.

23 (6) GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—The term
24 “government astronaut” has the meaning given the
25 term in section 50902 of title 51, United States
26 Code.

1 (7) ISS.—The term “ISS” means the Inter-
2 national Space Station.

3 (8) ISS MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The term
4 “ISS management entity” means the organization
5 with which the Administrator has a cooperative
6 agreement under section 504(a) of the National Aer-
7 onautics and Space Administration Authorization
8 Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354(a)).

9 (9) NASA.—The term “NASA” means the Na-
10 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration.

11 (10) ORION.—The term “Orion” means the
12 multipurpose crew vehicle described under section
13 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
14 tration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
15 18323).

16 (11) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term
17 “Space Launch System” has the meaning given the
18 term in section 3 of the National Aeronautics and
19 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
20 U.S.C. 18302).

21 (12) UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASTRO-
22 NAUT.—The term “United States government astro-
23 naut” has the meaning given the term “government
24 astronaut” in section 50902 of title 51, United

1 States Code, except it does not include an individual
2 who is an international partner astronaut.

3 **TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF**
4 **APPROPRIATIONS**

5 **SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2017.**

6 There are authorized to be appropriated to NASA for
7 fiscal year 2017, \$19,508,000,000, as follows:

8 (1) For Exploration, \$4,330,000,000.

9 (2) For Space Operations, \$5,023,000,000.

10 (3) For Science, \$5,500,000,000.

11 (4) For Aeronautics, \$640,000,000.

12 (5) For Space Technology, \$686,000,000.

13 (6) For Education, \$115,000,000.

14 (7) For Safety, Security, and Mission Services,
15 \$2,788,600,000.

16 (8) For Construction and Environmental Com-
17 pliance and Restoration, \$388,000,000.

18 (9) For Inspector General, \$37,400,000.

19 **TITLE II—SUSTAINING NA-**
20 **TIONAL SPACE COMMIT-**
21 **MENTS**

22 **SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUSTAINING NATIONAL**
23 **SPACE COMMITMENTS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) honoring current national space commit-
2 ments and building upon investments in space across
3 successive Administrations demonstrates clear con-
4 tinuity of purpose by the United States, in collabora-
5 tion with its international, academic, and industry
6 partners, to extend humanity's reach into deep
7 space, including cis-lunar space, the Moon, the sur-
8 face and moons of Mars, and beyond;

9 (2) NASA leaders can best leverage investments
10 in the United States space program by continuing to
11 develop a balanced portfolio for space exploration
12 and space science, including continued development
13 of the Space Launch System, Orion, Commercial
14 Crew Program, space and planetary science missions
15 such as the James Webb Space Telescope, Wide-
16 Field Infrared Survey Telescope, and Europa mis-
17 sion, and ongoing operations of the ISS and Com-
18 mercial Resupply Services Program;

19 (3) a national, government-led space program
20 that builds on current science and exploration pro-
21 grams, advances human knowledge and capabilities,
22 and opens the frontier beyond Earth for ourselves,
23 commercial enterprise, and science, and with our
24 international partners, is of critical importance to

1 our national destiny and to a future guided by
2 United States values and freedoms;

3 (4) continuity of purpose and effective execu-
4 tion of core NASA programs are essential for effi-
5 cient use of resources in pursuit of timely and tan-
6 gible accomplishments;

7 (5) NASA could improve its efficiency and ef-
8 fectiveness by working with industry to streamline
9 existing programs and requirements, procurement
10 practices, institutional footprint, and bureaucracy
11 while preserving effective program oversight, ac-
12 countability, and safety;

13 (6) it is imperative that the United States
14 maintain and enhance its leadership in space explo-
15 ration and space science, and continue to expand
16 freedom and economic opportunities in space for all
17 Americans that are consistent with the Constitution
18 of the United States; and

19 (7) NASA should be a multi-mission space
20 agency, and should have a balanced and robust set
21 of core missions in space science, space technology,
22 aeronautics, human space flight and exploration, and
23 education.

24 **SEC. 202. FINDINGS.**

25 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Returns on the Nation’s investments in
2 science, technology, and exploration accrue over dec-
3 ades-long timeframes, and a disruption of such in-
4 vestments could prevent returns from being fully re-
5 alized.

6 (2) Past challenges to the continuity of such in-
7 vestments, particularly threats regarding the can-
8 cellation of authorized programs with bipartisan and
9 bicameral support, have disrupted completion of
10 major space systems thereby—

11 (A) impeding planning and pursuit of na-
12 tional objectives in space science and human
13 space exploration;

14 (B) placing such investments in space
15 science and space exploration at risk; and

16 (C) degrading the aerospace industrial
17 base.

18 (3) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
19 ministration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law
20 109–155; 119 Stat. 2895), National Aeronautics
21 and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008
22 (Public Law 110–422; 122 Stat. 4779), and Na-
23 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
24 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301 et seq.)
25 reflect a broad, bipartisan agreement on the path

1 forward for NASA’s core missions in science, space
2 technology, aeronautics, human space flight and ex-
3 ploration, and education, that serves as the founda-
4 tion for the policy updates by this Act.

5 (4) Sufficient investment and maximum utiliza-
6 tion of the ISS and ISS National Laboratory with
7 our international and industry partners is—

8 (A) consistent with the goals and objectives
9 of the United States space program; and

10 (B) imperative to continuing United States
11 global leadership in human space exploration,
12 science, research, technology development, and
13 education opportunities that contribute to devel-
14 opment of the next generation of American sci-
15 entists, engineers, and leaders, and to creating
16 the opportunity for economic development of
17 low-Earth orbit.

18 (5) NASA has made measurable progress in the
19 development and testing of the Space Launch Sys-
20 tem and Orion exploration systems with the near-
21 term objectives of the initial integrated test flight
22 and launch in 2018, a human mission in 2021, and
23 continued missions with an annual cadence in cis-
24 lunar space and eventually to the surface of Mars.

1 (6) The Commercial Crew Program has made
2 measurable progress toward reestablishing the capa-
3 bility to launch United States government astro-
4 nauts from United States soil into low-Earth orbit
5 by the end of 2018.

6 (7) The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, in its
7 2015 Annual Report, urged continuity of purpose
8 noting concerns over the potential for cost overruns
9 and schedule slips that could accompany significant
10 changes to core NASA programs.

11 **TITLE III—MAXIMIZING UTILIZA-**
12 **TION OF THE ISS AND LOW-**
13 **EARTH ORBIT**

14 **SEC. 301. OPERATION OF THE ISS.**

15 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
16 gress that—

17 (1) after 15 years of continuous human pres-
18 ence in low-Earth orbit, the ISS continues to over-
19 come challenges and operate safely;

20 (2) the ISS is a unique testbed for future space
21 exploration systems development, including long-du-
22 ration space travel;

23 (3) the expansion of partnerships, scientific re-
24 search, and commercial applications of the ISS is es-
25 sential to ensuring the greatest return on invest-

1 ments made by the United States and its inter-
2 national space partners in the development, assem-
3 bly, and operations of that unique facility;

4 (4) utilization of the ISS will sustain United
5 States leadership and progress in human space ex-
6 ploration by—

7 (A) facilitating the commercialization and
8 economic development of low-Earth orbit;

9 (B) serving as a testbed for technologies
10 and a platform for scientific research and devel-
11 opment; and

12 (C) serving as an orbital facility enabling
13 research upon—

14 (i) the health, well-being, and per-
15 formance of humans in space; and

16 (ii) the development of in-space sys-
17 tems enabling human space exploration be-
18 yond low-Earth orbit; and

19 (5) the ISS provides a platform for funda-
20 mental, microgravity, discovery-based space life and
21 physical sciences research that is critical for ena-
22 bling space exploration, protecting humans in space,
23 increasing pathways for commercial space develop-
24 ment that depend on advances in basic research, and

1 contributes to advancing science, technology, engi-
2 neering, and mathematics research.

3 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The primary objectives of the ISS
4 program shall be—

5 (1) to achieve the long term goal and objectives
6 under section 202 of the National Aeronautics and
7 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
8 U.S.C. 18312); and

9 (2) to pursue a research program that advances
10 knowledge and provides other benefits to the Nation.

11 (c) CONTINUATION OF THE ISS.—Section 501 of the
12 National Aeronautics and Space Administration Author-
13 ization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351) is amended to read
14 as follows:

15 **“SEC. 501. CONTINUATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE**
16 **STATION.**

17 “(a) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It shall be
18 the policy of the United States, in consultation with its
19 international partners in the ISS program, to support full
20 and complete utilization of the ISS through at least 2024.

21 “(b) NASA ACTION.—In furtherance of the policy set
22 forth in subsection (a), NASA shall—

23 “(1) pursue international, commercial, and
24 intragovernmental means to maximize ISS logistics
25 supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities,

1 reduce risks to ISS systems sustainability, and offset
2 and minimize United States operations costs relating
3 to the ISS;

4 “(2) utilize, to the extent practicable, the ISS
5 for the development of capabilities and technologies
6 needed for the future of human space exploration
7 beyond low-Earth orbit; and

8 “(3) utilize, if practical and cost effective, the
9 ISS for Science Mission Directorate missions in low-
10 Earth orbit.”.

11 **SEC. 302. TRANSPORTATION TO ISS.**

12 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that reliance on for-
13 eign carriers for United States crew transfer is unaccept-
14 able, and the Nation’s human space flight program must
15 acquire the capability to launch United States government
16 astronauts on vehicles using United States rockets from
17 United States soil as soon as is safe, reliable, and afford-
18 able to do so.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMMERCIAL CREW
20 PROGRAM AND COMMERCIAL RESUPPLY SERVICES PRO-
21 GRAM.—It is the sense of Congress that—

22 (1) once developed and certified to meet the Ad-
23 ministration’s safety and reliability requirements,
24 United States commercially provided crew transpor-
25 tation systems can serve as the primary means of

1 transporting United States government astronauts
2 and international partner astronauts to and from
3 the ISS and serving as ISS crew rescue vehicles;

4 (2) previous budgetary assumptions used by the
5 Administration in its planning for the Commercial
6 Crew Program assumed significantly higher funding
7 levels than were authorized and appropriated by
8 Congress;

9 (3) credibility in the Administration's budgetary
10 estimates for the Commercial Crew Program can be
11 enhanced by an independently developed cost esti-
12 mate;

13 (4) such credibility in budgetary estimates is an
14 important factor in understanding program risk;

15 (5) United States access to low-Earth orbit is
16 paramount to the continued success of the ISS and
17 ISS National Laboratory;

18 (6) a stable and successful Commercial Resup-
19 ply Services Program and Commercial Crew Pro-
20 gram are critical to ensuring timely provisioning of
21 the ISS and to reestablishing the capability to
22 launch United States government astronauts from
23 United States soil into orbit, ending reliance upon
24 Russian transport of United States government as-
25 tronauts to the ISS which has not been possible

1 since the retirement of the Space Shuttle program in
2 2011;

3 (7) NASA should build upon the success of the
4 Commercial Orbital Transportation Services Pro-
5 gram and Commercial Resupply Services Program
6 that have allowed private sector companies to part-
7 ner with NASA to deliver cargo and scientific experi-
8 ments to the ISS since 2012;

9 (8) the 21st Century Launch Complex Program
10 has enabled significant modernization and infra-
11 structure improvements at launch sites across the
12 United States to support NASA's Commercial Re-
13 supply Services Program and other civil and com-
14 mercial space flight missions; and

15 (9) the 21st Century Launch Complex Program
16 should be continued in a manner that leverages
17 State and private investments to achieve the goals of
18 that program.

19 (c) REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms—

20 (1) its commitment to the use of a commercially
21 developed, private sector launch and delivery system
22 to the ISS for crew missions as expressed in the Na-
23 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
24 thorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–155; 119
25 Stat. 2895), the National Aeronautics and Space

1 Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public
2 Law 110–422; 122 Stat. 4779), and the National
3 Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization
4 Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18301 et seq.); and

5 (2) the requirement under section
6 50111(b)(1)(A) of title 51, United States Code, that
7 the Administration shall make use of United States
8 commercially provided ISS crew transfer and crew
9 rescue services to the maximum extent practicable.

10 (d) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE
11 FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—Section
12 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
13 tion Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)) is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 “(a) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE
16 FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Government
18 may not acquire human space flight transportation
19 services from a foreign entity unless—

20 “(A) no United States Government-oper-
21 ated human space flight capability is available;

22 “(B) no United States commercial provider
23 is available; and

24 “(C) it is a qualified foreign entity.

25 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) COMMERCIAL PROVIDER.—The term
2 ‘commercial provider’ means any person pro-
3 viding human space flight transportation serv-
4 ices, primary control of which is held by persons
5 other than the Federal Government, a State or
6 local government, or a foreign government.

7 “(B) QUALIFIED FOREIGN ENTITY.—The
8 term ‘qualified foreign entity’ means a foreign
9 entity that is in compliance with all applicable
10 safety standards and is not prohibited from
11 providing space transportation services under
12 other law.

13 “(C) UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL PRO-
14 VIDER.—The term ‘United States commercial
15 provider’ means a commercial provider, orga-
16 nized under the laws of the United States or of
17 a State, that is more than 50 percent owned by
18 United States nationals.

19 “(3) ARRANGEMENTS WITH FOREIGN ENTI-
20 TIES.—Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the
21 Administrator from negotiating or entering into
22 human space flight transportation arrangements
23 with foreign entities to ensure safety of flight and
24 continued ISS operations.”.

25 (e) COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM.—

1 (1) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Commer-
2 cial Crew Program shall be to assist in the develop-
3 ment and certification of commercially provided
4 transportation that—

5 (A) can carry United States government
6 astronauts safely, reliably, and affordably to
7 and from the ISS;

8 (B) can serve as a crew rescue vehicle; and

9 (C) can accomplish subparagraphs (A) and
10 (B) as soon as practicable.

11 (2) PRIMARY CONSIDERATION.—The objective
12 described in paragraph (1) shall be the primary con-
13 sideration in the acquisition strategy for the Com-
14 mercial Crew Program.

15 (3) SAFETY.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
17 shall protect the safety of government astro-
18 nauts by ensuring that each commercially pro-
19 vided transportation system under this sub-
20 section meets all applicable human rating re-
21 quirements in accordance with section
22 403(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and
23 Space Administration Authorization Act of
24 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18342(b)(1)).

1 (B) LESSONS LEARNED.—Consistent with
2 the findings and recommendations of the Co-
3 lumbia Accident Investigation Board, the Ad-
4 ministration shall ensure that safety and the
5 minimization of the probability of loss of crew
6 are the critical priorities of the Commercial
7 Crew Program.

8 (4) COST MINIMIZATION.—The Administrator
9 shall strive through the competitive selection process
10 to minimize the life cycle cost to the Administration
11 through the planned period of commercially provided
12 crew transportation services.

13 (f) COMMERCIAL CARGO PROGRAM.—Section 401 of
14 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
15 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18341) is amended
16 by striking “Commercial Orbital Transportation Services”
17 and inserting “Commercial Resupply Services”.

18 (g) COMPETITION.—It is the policy of the United
19 States that, to foster the competitive development, oper-
20 ation, improvement, and commercial availability of space
21 transportation services, and to minimize the life cycle cost
22 to the Administration, the Administrator shall procure
23 services for Federal Government access to and return from
24 the ISS, whenever practicable, via fair and open competi-
25 tion for well-defined, milestone-based, Federal Acquisition

1 Regulation-based contracts under section 201(a) of the
2 National Aeronautics and Space Administration Author-
3 ization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)).

4 (h) TRANSPARENCY.—

5 (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
6 Congress that cost transparency and schedule trans-
7 parency aid in effective program management and
8 risk assessment.

9 (2) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, to
10 the greatest extent practicable and in a manner that
11 does not add costs or schedule delays to the pro-
12 gram, ensure all Commercial Crew Program and
13 Commercial Resupply Services Program providers
14 provide evidence-based support for their costs and
15 schedules.

16 (i) ISS CARGO RESUPPLY SERVICES LESSONS
17 LEARNED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of en-
18 actment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the
19 appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

20 (1) identifies the lessons learned to date from
21 previous and existing Commercial Resupply Services
22 contracts;

23 (2) indicates whether changes are needed to the
24 manner in which the Administration procures and
25 manages similar services prior to the issuance of fu-

1 ture Commercial Resupply Services procurement op-
2 portunities; and

3 (3) identifies any lessons learned from the Com-
4 mercial Resupply Services contracts that should be
5 applied to the procurement and management of com-
6 mercially provided crew transfer services to and
7 from the ISS or to other future procurements.

8 **SEC. 303. ISS TRANSITION PLAN.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

10 (1) NASA has been both the primary supplier
11 and consumer of human space flight capabilities and
12 services of the ISS and in low-Earth orbit; and

13 (2) according to the National Research Council
14 report “Pathways to Exploration: Rationales and
15 Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Space
16 Exploration” extending ISS beyond 2020 to 2024 or
17 2028 will have significant negative impacts on the
18 schedule of crewed missions to Mars, without signifi-
19 cant increases in funding.

20 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that—

22 (1) an orderly transition for United States
23 human space flight activities in low-Earth orbit from
24 the current regime, that relies heavily on NASA
25 sponsorship, to a regime where NASA is one of

1 many customers of a low-Earth orbit commercial
2 human space flight enterprise may be necessary; and

3 (2) decisions about the long-term future of the
4 ISS impact the ability to conduct future deep space
5 exploration activities, and that such decisions re-
6 garding the ISS should be considered in the context
7 of the human exploration roadmap under section
8 432 of this Act.

9 (c) REPORTS.—Section 50111 of title 51, United
10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(c) ISS TRANSITION PLAN.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in co-
14 ordination with the ISS management entity (as de-
15 fined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and
16 Space Administration Transition Authorization Act
17 of 2017), ISS partners, the scientific user commu-
18 nity, and the commercial space sector, shall develop
19 a plan to transition in a step-wise approach from the
20 current regime that relies heavily on NASA sponsor-
21 ship to a regime where NASA could be one of many
22 customers of a low-Earth orbit non-governmental
23 human space flight enterprise.

24 “(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 1,
25 2017, and biennially thereafter until 2023, the Ad-

1 administrator shall submit to the Committee on Com-
2 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
3 and the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
4 nology of the House of Representatives a report that
5 includes—

6 “(A) a description of the progress in
7 achieving the Administration’s deep space
8 human exploration objectives on ISS and pros-
9 pects for accomplishing future mission require-
10 ments, space exploration objectives, and other
11 research objectives on future commercially sup-
12 plied low-Earth orbit platforms or migration of
13 those objectives to cis-lunar space;

14 “(B) the steps NASA is taking and will
15 take, including demonstrations that could be
16 conducted on the ISS, to stimulate and facili-
17 tate commercial demand and supply of products
18 and services in low-Earth orbit;

19 “(C) an identification of barriers pre-
20 venting the commercialization of low-Earth
21 orbit, including issues relating to policy, regula-
22 tions, commercial intellectual property, data,
23 and confidentiality, that could inhibit the use of
24 the ISS as a commercial incubator;

1 “(D) the criteria for defining the ISS as a
2 research success;

3 “(E) the criteria used to determine wheth-
4 er the ISS is meeting the objective under sec-
5 tion 301(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and
6 Space Administration Transition Authorization
7 Act of 2017;

8 “(F) an assessment of whether the criteria
9 under subparagraphs (D) and (E) are con-
10 sistent with the research areas defined in, and
11 recommendations and schedules under, the cur-
12 rent National Academies of Sciences, Engineer-
13 ing, and Medicine Decadal Survey on Biological
14 and Physical Sciences in Space;

15 “(G) any necessary contributions that ISS
16 extension would make to enabling execution of
17 the human exploration roadmap under section
18 432 of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
19 ministration Transition Authorization Act of
20 2017;

21 “(H) the cost estimates for operating the
22 ISS to achieve the criteria required under sub-
23 paragraphs (D) and (E) and the contributions
24 identified under subparagraph (G);

1 “(I) the cost estimates for extending oper-
2 ations of the ISS to 2024, 2028, and 2030;

3 “(J) an evaluation of the feasible and pre-
4 ferred service life of the ISS beyond the period
5 described in section 503 of the National Aero-
6 nautics and Space Administration Authorization
7 Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18353), through at
8 least 2028, as a unique scientific, commercial,
9 and space exploration-related facility, includ-
10 ing—

11 “(i) a general discussion of inter-
12 national partner capabilities and prospects
13 for extending the partnership;

14 “(ii) the cost associated with extend-
15 ing the service life;

16 “(iii) an assessment on the technical
17 limiting factors of the service life of the
18 ISS, including a list of critical components
19 and their expected service life and avail-
20 ability; and

21 “(iv) such other information as may
22 be necessary to fully describe the justifica-
23 tion for and feasibility of extending the
24 service life of the ISS, including the poten-
25 tial scientific or technological benefits to

1 the Federal Government, public, or to aca-
2 demic or commercial entities;

3 “(K) an identification of the necessary ac-
4 tions and an estimate of the costs to deorbit the
5 ISS once it has reached the end of its service
6 life;

7 “(L) the impact on deep space exploration
8 capabilities, including a crewed mission to Mars
9 in the 2030s, if the preferred service life of the
10 ISS is extended beyond 2024 and NASA main-
11 tains a flat budget profile; and

12 “(M) an evaluation of the functions, roles,
13 and responsibilities for management and oper-
14 ation of the ISS and a determination of—

15 “(i) those functions, roles, and re-
16 sponsibilities the Federal Government
17 should retain during the lifecycle of the
18 ISS;

19 “(ii) those functions, roles, and re-
20 sponsibilities that could be transferred to
21 the commercial space sector;

22 “(iii) the metrics that would indicate
23 the commercial space sector’s readiness
24 and ability to assume the functions, roles,

1 and responsibilities described in clause (ii);

2 and

3 “(iv) any necessary changes to any
4 agreements or other documents and the
5 law to enable the activities described in
6 subparagraphs (A) and (B).

7 “(3) DEMONSTRATIONS.—If additional Govern-
8 ment crew, power, and transportation resources are
9 available after meeting the Administration’s require-
10 ments for ISS activities defined in the human explo-
11 ration roadmap and related research, demonstrations
12 identified under paragraph (2) may—

13 “(A) test the capabilities needed to meet
14 future mission requirements, space exploration
15 objectives, and other research objectives de-
16 scribed in paragraph (2)(A); and

17 “(B) demonstrate or test capabilities, in-
18 cluding commercial modules or deep space habi-
19 tats, Environmental Control and Life Support
20 Systems, orbital satellite assembly, exploration
21 space suits, a node that enables a wide variety
22 of activity, including multiple commercial mod-
23 ules and airlocks, additional docking or berth-
24 ing ports for commercial crew and cargo, oppor-
25 tunities for the commercial space sector to cost

1 share for transportation and other services on
2 the ISS, other commercial activities, or services
3 obtained through alternate acquisition ap-
4 proaches.”.

5 **SEC. 304. SPACE COMMUNICATIONS.**

6 (a) PLAN.—The Administrator shall develop a plan,
7 in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, to meet the
8 Administration’s projected space communication and navi-
9 gation needs for low-Earth orbit and deep space oper-
10 ations in the 20-year period following the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—The plan shall include—

13 (1) the lifecycle cost estimates and a 5-year
14 funding profile;

15 (2) the performance capabilities required to
16 meet the Administration’s projected space commu-
17 nication and navigation needs;

18 (3) the measures the Administration will take
19 to sustain the existing space communications and
20 navigation architecture;

21 (4) an identification of the projected space com-
22 munications and navigation network and infrastruc-
23 ture needs;

1 (5) a description of the necessary upgrades to
2 meet the needs identified in paragraph (4), includ-
3 ing—

4 (A) an estimate of the cost of the up-
5 grades;

6 (B) a schedule for implementing the up-
7 grades; and

8 (C) an assessment of whether and how any
9 related missions will be impacted if resources
10 are not secured at the level needed;

11 (6) the cost estimates for the maintenance of
12 existing space communications network capabilities
13 necessary to meet the needs identified in paragraph
14 (4);

15 (7) the criteria for prioritizing resources for the
16 upgrades described in paragraph (5) and the mainte-
17 nance described in paragraph (6);

18 (8) an estimate of any reimbursement amounts
19 the Administration may receive from other Federal
20 agencies;

21 (9) an identification of the projected Tracking
22 and Data Relay Satellite System needs in the 20-
23 year period following the date of enactment of this
24 Act, including in support of relevant Federal agen-
25 cies, and cost and schedule estimates to maintain

1 and upgrade the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite
2 System to meet the projected needs;

3 (10) the measures the Administration is taking
4 to meet space communications needs after all Track-
5 ing and Data Relay Satellite System third-genera-
6 tion communications satellites are operational; and

7 (11) the measures the Administration is taking
8 to mitigate threats to electromagnetic spectrum use.

9 (c) SCHEDULE.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
11 the plan to the appropriate committees of Congress.

12 **SEC. 305. INDEMNIFICATION; NASA LAUNCH SERVICES AND**
13 **REENTRY SERVICES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of
15 title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
16 end the following:

17 **“§ 20148. Indemnification; NASA launch services and**
18 **reentry services**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Under such regulations in con-
20 formity with this section as the Administrator shall pre-
21 scribe taking into account the availability, cost, and terms
22 of liability insurance, any contract between the Adminis-
23 tration and a provider may provide that the United States
24 will indemnify the provider against successful claims (in-
25 cluding reasonable expenses of litigation or settlement) by

1 third parties for death, bodily injury, or loss of or damage
2 to property resulting from launch services and reentry
3 services carried out under the contract that the contract
4 defines as unusually hazardous or nuclear in nature, but
5 only to the extent the total amount of successful claims
6 related to the activities under the contract—

7 “(1) is more than the amount of insurance or
8 demonstration of financial responsibility described in
9 subsection (c)(3); and

10 “(2) is not more than the amount specified in
11 section 50915(a)(1)(B).

12 “(b) TERMS OF INDEMNIFICATION.—A contract
13 made under subsection (a) that provides indemnification
14 shall provide for—

15 “(1) notice to the United States of any claim or
16 suit against the provider for death, bodily injury, or
17 loss of or damage to property; and

18 “(2) control of or assistance in the defense by
19 the United States, at its election, of that claim or
20 suit and approval of any settlement.

21 “(c) LIABILITY INSURANCE OF THE PROVIDER.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The provider under sub-
23 section (a) shall obtain liability insurance or dem-
24 onstrate financial responsibility in amounts to com-

1 pensate for the maximum probable loss from claims
2 by—

3 “(A) a third party for death, bodily injury,
4 or property damage or loss resulting from a
5 launch service or reentry service carried out
6 under the contract; and

7 “(B) the United States Government for
8 damage or loss to Government property result-
9 ing from a launch service or reentry service car-
10 ried out under the contract.

11 “(2) MAXIMUM PROBABLE LOSSES.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
13 shall determine the maximum probable losses
14 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph
15 (1) not later than 90 days after the date that
16 the provider requests such a determination and
17 submits all information the Administrator re-
18 quires.

19 “(B) REVISIONS.—The Administrator may
20 revise a determination under subparagraph (A)
21 of this paragraph if the Administrator deter-
22 mines the revision is warranted based on new
23 information.

24 “(3) AMOUNT OF INSURANCE.—For the total
25 claims related to one launch or reentry, a provider

1 shall not be required to obtain insurance or dem-
2 onstrate financial responsibility of more than—

3 “(A)(i) \$500,000,000 under paragraph
4 (1)(A); or

5 “(ii) \$100,000,000 under paragraph
6 (1)(B); or

7 “(B) the maximum liability insurance
8 available on the world market at reasonable
9 cost.

10 “(4) COVERAGE.—An insurance policy or dem-
11 onstration of financial responsibility under this sub-
12 section shall protect the following, to the extent of
13 their potential liability for involvement in launch
14 services or reentry services:

15 “(A) The Government.

16 “(B) Personnel of the Government.

17 “(C) Related entities of the Government.

18 “(D) Related entities of the provider.

19 “(E) Government astronauts.

20 “(d) NO INDEMNIFICATION WITHOUT CROSS-WAIV-
21 ER.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Administrator
22 may not indemnify a provider under this section unless
23 there is a cross-waiver between the Administration and the
24 provider as described in subsection (e).

25 “(e) CROSS-WAIVERS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, on be-
2 half of the United States and its departments, agen-
3 cies, and instrumentalities, shall reciprocally waive
4 claims with a provider under which each party to the
5 waiver agrees to be responsible, and agrees to ensure
6 that its related entities are responsible, for damage
7 or loss to its property, or for losses resulting from
8 any injury or death sustained by its employees or
9 agents, as a result of activities arising out of the
10 performance of the contract.

11 “(2) LIMITATION.—The waiver made by the
12 Government under paragraph (1) shall apply only to
13 the extent that the claims are more than the amount
14 of insurance or demonstration of financial responsi-
15 bility required under subsection (c)(1)(B).

16 “(f) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—Indemnification under
17 subsection (a) may exclude claims resulting from the will-
18 ful misconduct of the provider or its related entities.

19 “(g) CERTIFICATION OF JUST AND REASONABLE
20 AMOUNT.—No payment may be made under subsection
21 (a) unless the Administrator or the Administrator’s des-
22 ignee certifies that the amount is just and reasonable.

23 “(h) PAYMENTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the approval by the
25 Administrator, payments under subsection (a) may

1 be made from funds appropriated for such pay-
2 ments.

3 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator shall not
4 approve payments under paragraph (1), except to
5 the extent provided in an appropriation law or to the
6 extent additional legislative authority is enacted pro-
7 viding for such payments.

8 “(3) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—If the
9 Administrator requests additional appropriations to
10 make payments under this subsection, then the re-
11 quest for those appropriations shall be made in ac-
12 cordance with the procedures established under sec-
13 tion 50915.

14 “(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority to indemnify
16 under this section shall not create any rights in
17 third persons that would not otherwise exist by law.

18 “(2) OTHER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this sec-
19 tion may be construed as prohibiting the Adminis-
20 trator from indemnifying a provider or any other
21 NASA contractor under other law, including under
22 Public Law 85–804 (50 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.).

23 “(3) ANTI-DEFICIENCY ACT.—Notwithstanding
24 any other provision of this section—

1 “(A) all obligations under this section are
2 subject to the availability of funds; and

3 “(B) nothing in this section may be con-
4 strued to require obligation or payment of
5 funds in violation of sections 1341, 1342, 1349
6 through 1351, and 1511 through 1519 of title
7 31, United States Code (commonly referred to
8 as the ‘Anti-Deficiency Act’).

9 “(j) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—The Admin-
10 istrator may not provide indemnification under this sec-
11 tion for an activity that requires a license or permit under
12 chapter 509.

13 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—The term
15 ‘government astronaut’ has the meaning given the
16 term in section 50902.

17 “(2) LAUNCH SERVICES.—The term ‘launch
18 services’ has the meaning given the term in section
19 50902.

20 “(3) PROVIDER.—The term ‘provider’ means a
21 person that provides domestic launch services or do-
22 mestic reentry services to the Government.

23 “(4) REENTRY SERVICES.—The term ‘reentry
24 services’ has the meaning given the term in section
25 50902.

1 “(5) RELATED ENTITY.—The term ‘related en-
2 tity’ means a contractor or subcontractor.

3 “(6) THIRD PARTY.—The term ‘third party’
4 means a person except—

5 “(A) the United States Government;

6 “(B) related entities of the Government in-
7 volved in launch services or reentry services;

8 “(C) a provider;

9 “(D) related entities of the provider in-
10 volved in launch services or reentry services; or

11 “(E) a government astronaut.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
13 tents for subchapter III of chapter 201 of title 51, United
14 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
15 ing to section 20147 the following:

 “20148. Indemnification; NASA launch services and reentry services.”.

16 **TITLE IV—ADVANCING HUMAN**
17 **DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION**
18 **Subtitle A—Human Space Flight**
19 **and Exploration Goals and Ob-**
20 **jectives**

21 **SEC. 411. HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT AND EXPLORATION LONG-**
22 **TERM GOALS.**

23 Section 202(a) of the National Aeronautics and
24 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
25 U.S.C. 18312(a)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(a) LONG-TERM GOALS.—The long-term goals of
2 the human space flight and exploration efforts of NASA
3 shall be—

4 “(1) to expand permanent human presence be-
5 yond low-Earth orbit and to do so, where practical,
6 in a manner involving international, academic, and
7 industry partners;

8 “(2) crewed missions and progress toward
9 achieving the goal in paragraph (1) to enable the po-
10 tential for subsequent human exploration and the ex-
11 tension of human presence throughout the solar sys-
12 tem; and

13 “(3) to enable a capability to extend human
14 presence, including potential human habitation on
15 another celestial body and a thriving space economy
16 in the 21st Century.”.

17 **SEC. 412. KEY OBJECTIVES.**

18 Section 202(b) of the National Aeronautics and
19 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
20 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and
22 inserting a semicolon;

23 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at
24 the end and inserting “; and”; and

25 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(5) to achieve human exploration of Mars and
2 beyond through the prioritization of those tech-
3 nologies and capabilities best suited for such a mis-
4 sion in accordance with the stepping stone approach
5 to exploration under section 70504 of title 51,
6 United States Code.”.

7 **SEC. 413. VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.**

8 Section 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “in cis-lunar
11 space or” after “sustained human presence”;

12 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(b) **FUTURE EXPLORATION OF MARS.**—The Admin-
15 istrator shall manage human space flight programs, in-
16 cluding the Space Launch System and Orion, to enable
17 humans to explore Mars and other destinations by defin-
18 ing a series of sustainable steps and conducting mission
19 planning, research, and technology development on a time-
20 table that is technically and fiscally possible, consistent
21 with section 70504.”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

24 “(1) **ORION.**—The term ‘Orion’ means the mul-
25 tipurpose crew vehicle described under section 303

1 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
2 tion Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

3 “(2) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term
4 ‘Space Launch System’ means has the meaning
5 given the term in section 3 of the National Aero-
6 nautics and Space Administration Authorization Act
7 of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18302).”.

8 **SEC. 414. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.**

9 Section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **“§ 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administration—

13 “(1) may conduct missions to intermediate des-
14 tinations in sustainable steps in accordance with sec-
15 tion 20302(b) of this title, and on a timetable deter-
16 mined by the availability of funding, in order to
17 achieve the objective of human exploration of Mars
18 specified in section 202(b)(5) of the National Aero-
19 nautics and Space Administration Authorization Act
20 of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)(5)); and

21 “(2) shall incorporate any such missions into
22 the human exploration roadmap under section 432
23 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
24 tion Transition Authorization Act of 2017.

1 “(b) COST-EFFECTIVENESS.—In order to maximize
2 the cost-effectiveness of the long-term space exploration
3 and utilization activities of the United States, the Admin-
4 istrator shall take all necessary steps, including engaging
5 international, academic, and industry partners, to ensure
6 that activities in the Administration’s human space explo-
7 ration program balance how those activities might also
8 help meet the requirements of future exploration and utili-
9 zation activities leading to human habitation on the sur-
10 face of Mars.

11 “(c) COMPLETION.—Within budgetary consider-
12 ations, once an exploration-related project enters its devel-
13 opment phase, the Administrator shall seek, to the max-
14 imum extent practicable, to complete that project without
15 undue delays.

16 “(d) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.—In order to
17 achieve the goal of successfully conducting a crewed mis-
18 sion to the surface of Mars, the President may invite the
19 United States partners in the ISS program and other na-
20 tions, as appropriate, to participate in an international ini-
21 tiative under the leadership of the United States.”.

22 **SEC. 415. UPDATE OF EXPLORATION PLAN AND PROGRAMS.**

23 Section 70502(2) of title 51, United States Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

1 “(2) implement an exploration research and
2 technology development program to enable human
3 and robotic operations consistent with section
4 20302(b) of this title;”.

5 **SEC. 416. REPEALS.**

6 (a) **SPACE SHUTTLE CAPABILITY ASSURANCE.**—Sec-
7 tion 203 of the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
8 tration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18313) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking subsection (b);

11 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “subsection
12 (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)”; and

13 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
14 subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

15 (b) **SHUTTLE PRICING POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL**
16 **AND FOREIGN USERS.**—Chapter 703 of title 51, United
17 States Code, and the item relating to that chapter in the
18 table of chapters for that title, are repealed.

19 (c) **SHUTTLE PRIVATIZATION.**—Section 50133 of
20 title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to that
21 section in the table of sections for chapter 501 of that
22 title, are repealed.

23 **SEC. 417. ASSURED ACCESS TO SPACE.**

24 Section 70501 of title 51, United States Code, is
25 amended—

1 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(a) POLICY STATEMENT.—In order to ensure con-
4 tinuous United States participation and leadership in the
5 exploration and utilization of space and as an essential
6 instrument of national security, it is the policy of the
7 United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for
8 human space flight and operations—

9 “(1) in low-Earth orbit; and

10 “(2) beyond low-Earth orbit once the capabili-
11 ties described in section 421(f) of the National Aero-
12 nautics and Space Administration Transition Au-
13 thorization Act of 2017 become available.”; and

14 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “Committee
15 on Science and Technology of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
17 Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing
18 the progress being made toward developing the Crew
19 Exploration Vehicle and the Crew Launch Vehicle”
20 and inserting “Committee on Commerce, Science,
21 and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
22 mittee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
23 House of Representatives describing the progress
24 being made toward developing the Space Launch
25 System and Orion”.

1 **Subtitle B—Assuring Core**
2 **Capabilities for Exploration**

3 **SEC. 421. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM, ORION, AND EXPLORATION**
4 **GROUND SYSTEMS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) NASA has made steady progress in devel-
8 oping and testing the Space Launch System and
9 Orion exploration systems with the successful Explo-
10 ration Flight Test of Orion in December of 2014,
11 the final qualification test firing of the 5-segment
12 Space Launch System boosters in June 2016, and a
13 full thrust, full duration test firing of the RS-25
14 Space Launch System core stage engine in August
15 2016.

16 (2) Through the 21st Century Launch Complex
17 program and Exploration Ground Systems pro-
18 grams, NASA has made significant progress in
19 transforming exploration ground systems infrastruc-
20 ture to meet NASA’s mission requirements for the
21 Space Launch System and Orion and to modernize
22 NASA’s launch complexes to the benefit of the civil,
23 defense, and commercial space sectors.

24 (b) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—

1 (1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
2 Congress that the Space Launch System is a prac-
3 tical approach to reaching the Moon, Mars, and be-
4 yond.

5 (2) REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms the
6 policy and minimum capability requirements for the
7 Space Launch System under section 302 of the Na-
8 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
9 thorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

10 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SPACE LAUNCH SYS-
11 TEM, ORION, AND EXPLORATION GROUND SYSTEMS.—It
12 is the sense of Congress that—

13 (1) as the United States works to send humans
14 on a series of missions to Mars in the 2030s, the
15 United States national space program should con-
16 tinue to make progress on its commitment by fully
17 developing the Space Launch System, Orion, and re-
18 lated Exploration Ground Systems;

19 (2) using the Space Launch System and Orion
20 for a wide range of contemplated missions will facili-
21 tate the national defense, science, and exploration
22 objectives of the United States;

23 (3) the United States should have continuity of
24 purpose for the Space Launch System and Orion in
25 deep space exploration missions, using them begin-

1 ning with the uncrewed mission, EM–1, planned for
2 2018, followed by the crewed mission, EM–2, in cis-
3 lunar space planned for 2021, and for subsequent
4 missions beginning with EM–3 extending into cis-
5 lunar space and eventually to Mars;

6 (4) the President’s annual budget requests for
7 the Space Launch System and Orion development,
8 test, and operational phases should strive to accu-
9 rately reflect the resource requirements of each of
10 those phases;

11 (5) the fully integrated Space Launch System,
12 including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-
13 Earth orbit, will safely enable human space explo-
14 ration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond; and

15 (6) the Administrator should budget for and
16 undertake a robust ground test and uncrewed and
17 crewed flight test and demonstration program for
18 the Space Launch System and Orion in order to pro-
19 mote safety and reduce programmatic risk.

20 (d) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall continue
21 the development of the fully integrated Space Launch Sys-
22 tem, including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-
23 Earth orbit, in order to safely enable human space explo-
24 ration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond over the course of
25 the next century as required in section 302(c) of the Na-

1 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Authoriza-
2 tion Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)).

3 (e) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
5 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
6 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress a report addressing the ability of Orion to
8 meet the needs and the minimum capability require-
9 ments described in section 303(b)(3) of the National
10 Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization
11 Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323(b)(3)).

12 (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall detail—

13 (A) those components and systems of
14 Orion that ensure it is in compliance with sec-
15 tion 303(b)(3) of that Act (42 U.S.C.
16 18323(b)(3));

17 (B) the expected date that Orion, inte-
18 grated with a vehicle other than the Space
19 Launch System, could be available to transport
20 crew and cargo to the ISS;

21 (C) any impacts to the deep space explo-
22 ration missions under subsection (f) of this sec-
23 tion due to enabling Orion to meet the min-
24 imum capability requirements described in sec-
25 tion 303(b)(3) of that Act (42 U.S.C.

1 18323(b)(3)) and conducting the mission de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph;
3 and

4 (D) the overall cost and schedule impacts
5 associated with enabling Orion to meet the min-
6 imum capability requirements described in sec-
7 tion 303(b)(3) of that Act (42 U.S.C.
8 18323(b)(3)) and conducting the mission de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

10 (f) EXPLORATION MISSIONS.—The Administrator
11 shall continue development of—

12 (1) an uncrewed exploration mission to dem-
13 onstrate the capability of both the Space Launch
14 System and Orion as an integrated system by 2018;

15 (2) subject to applicable human rating proc-
16 esses and requirements, a crewed exploration mis-
17 sion to demonstrate the Space Launch System, in-
18 cluding the Core Stage and Exploration Upper
19 Stages, by 2021;

20 (3) subsequent missions beginning with EM-3
21 at operational flight rate sufficient to maintain safe-
22 ty and operational readiness using the Space Launch
23 System and Orion to extend into cis-lunar space and
24 eventually to Mars; and

1 (4) a deep space habitat as a key element in a
2 deep space exploration architecture along with the
3 Space Launch System and Orion.

4 (g) OTHER USES.—The Administrator shall assess
5 the utility of the Space Launch System for use by the
6 science community and for other Federal Government
7 launch needs, including consideration of overall cost and
8 schedule savings from reduced transit times and increased
9 science returns enabled by the unique capabilities of the
10 Space Launch System.

11 (h) UTILIZATION REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-
13 sultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Di-
14 rector of National Intelligence, shall prepare a re-
15 port that addresses the effort and budget required to
16 enable and utilize a cargo variant of the 130-ton
17 Space Launch System configuration described in
18 section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and
19 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
20 U.S.C. 18322(c)).

21 (2) CONTENTS.—In preparing the report, the
22 Administrator shall—

23 (A) consider the technical requirements of
24 the scientific and national security communities

1 related to a cargo variant of the Space Launch
2 System; and

3 (B) directly assess the utility and esti-
4 mated cost savings obtained by using a cargo
5 variant of the Space Launch System for na-
6 tional security and space science missions.

7 (3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
8 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
9 Administrator shall submit the report to the appro-
10 priate committees of Congress.

11 **Subtitle C—Journey to Mars**

12 **SEC. 431. FINDINGS ON HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION.**

13 Congress makes the following findings:

14 (1) In accordance with section 204 of the Na-
15 tional Aeronautics and Space Administration Au-
16 thorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2813), the Na-
17 tional Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Med-
18 icine, through its Committee on Human Spaceflight,
19 conducted a review of the goals, core capabilities,
20 and direction of human space flight, and published
21 the findings and recommendations in a 2014 report
22 entitled, “Pathways to Exploration: Rationales and
23 Approaches for a U.S. Program of Human Space
24 Exploration”.

1 (2) The Committee on Human Spaceflight in-
2 cluded leaders from the aerospace, scientific, secu-
3 rity, and policy communities.

4 (3) With input from the public, the Committee
5 on Human Spaceflight concluded that many prac-
6 tical and aspirational rationales for human space
7 flight together constitute a compelling case for con-
8 tinued national investment and pursuit of human
9 space exploration toward the horizon goal of Mars.

10 (4) According to the Committee on Human
11 Spaceflight, the rationales include economic benefits,
12 national security, national prestige, inspiring stu-
13 dents and other citizens, scientific discovery, human
14 survival, and a sense of shared destiny.

15 (5) The Committee on Human Spaceflight af-
16 firmed that Mars is the appropriate long-term goal
17 for the human space flight program.

18 (6) The Committee on Human Spaceflight rec-
19 ommended that NASA define a series of sustainable
20 steps and conduct mission planning and technology
21 development as needed to achieve the long-term goal
22 of placing humans on the surface of Mars.

23 (7) Expanding human presence beyond low-
24 Earth orbit and advancing toward human missions
25 to Mars requires early planning and timely decisions

1 to be made in the near-term on the necessary
2 courses of action for commitments to achieve short-
3 term and long-term goals and objectives.

4 (8) In addition to the 2014 report described in
5 paragraph (1), there are several independently devel-
6 oped reports or concepts that describe potential
7 Mars architectures or concepts and identify Mars as
8 the long-term goal for human space exploration, in-
9 cluding NASA’s “The Global Exploration Roadmap”
10 of 2013, “NASA’s Journey to Mars—Pioneering
11 Next Steps in Space Exploration” of 2015, NASA
12 Jet Propulsion Laboratory’s “Minimal Architecture
13 for Human Journeys to Mars” of 2015, and Explore
14 Mars’ “The Humans to Mars Report 2016”.

15 **SEC. 432. HUMAN EXPLORATION ROADMAP.**

16 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that—

18 (1) expanding human presence beyond low-
19 Earth orbit and advancing toward human missions
20 to Mars in the 2030s requires early strategic plan-
21 ning and timely decisions to be made in the near-
22 term on the necessary courses of action for commit-
23 ments to achieve short-term and long-term goals and
24 objectives;

1 (2) for strong and sustained United States
2 leadership, a need exists to advance a human explo-
3 ration roadmap, addressing exploration objectives in
4 collaboration with international, academic, and in-
5 dustry partners;

6 (3) an approach that incrementally advances to-
7 ward a long-term goal is one in which nearer-term
8 developments and implementation would influence
9 future development and implementation; and

10 (4) a human exploration roadmap should begin
11 with low-Earth orbit, then address in greater detail
12 progress beyond low-Earth orbit to cis-lunar space,
13 and then address future missions aimed at human
14 arrival and activities near and then on the surface
15 of Mars.

16 (b) HUMAN EXPLORATION ROADMAP.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall de-
18 velop a human exploration roadmap, including a
19 critical decision plan, to expand human presence be-
20 yond low-Earth orbit to the surface of Mars and be-
21 yond, considering potential interim destinations such
22 as cis-lunar space and the moons of Mars.

23 (2) SCOPE.—The human exploration roadmap
24 shall include—

1 (A) an integrated set of exploration,
2 science, and other goals and objectives of a
3 United States human space exploration pro-
4 gram to achieve the long-term goal of human
5 missions near or on the surface of Mars in the
6 2030s;

7 (B) opportunities for international, aca-
8 demic, and industry partnerships for explo-
9 ration-related systems, services, research, and
10 technology if those opportunities provide cost-
11 savings, accelerate program schedules, or other-
12 wise benefit the goals and objectives developed
13 under subparagraph (A);

14 (C) sets and sequences of precursor mis-
15 sions in cis-lunar space and other missions or
16 activities necessary—

17 (i) to demonstrate the proficiency of
18 the capabilities and technologies identified
19 under subparagraph (D); and

20 (ii) to meet the goals and objectives
21 developed under subparagraph (A), includ-
22 ing anticipated timelines and missions for
23 the Space Launch System and Orion;

24 (D) an identification of the specific capa-
25 bilities and technologies, including the Space

1 Launch System, Orion, a deep space habitat,
2 and other capabilities, that facilitate the goals
3 and objectives developed under subparagraph
4 (A);

5 (E) a description of how cis-lunar ele-
6 ments, objectives, and activities advance the
7 human exploration of Mars;

8 (F) an assessment of potential human
9 health and other risks, including radiation expo-
10 sure;

11 (G) mitigation plans, whenever possible, to
12 address the risks identified in subparagraph
13 (F);

14 (H) a description of those technologies al-
15 ready under development across the Federal
16 Government or by other entities that facilitate
17 the goals and objectives developed under sub-
18 paragraph (A);

19 (I) a specific process for the evolution of
20 the capabilities of the fully integrated Orion
21 with the Space Launch System and a descrip-
22 tion of how these systems facilitate the goals
23 and objectives developed under subparagraph
24 (A) and demonstrate the capabilities and tech-
25 nologies described in subparagraph (D);

1 (J) a description of the capabilities and
2 technologies that need to be demonstrated or
3 research data that could be gained through the
4 utilization of the ISS and the status of the de-
5 velopment of such capabilities and technologies;

6 (K) a framework for international coopera-
7 tion in the development of all capabilities and
8 technologies identified under this section, in-
9 cluding an assessment of the risks posed by re-
10 lying on international partners for capabilities
11 and technologies on the critical path of develop-
12 ment;

13 (L) a process for partnering with non-
14 governmental entities using Space Act Agree-
15 ments or other acquisition instruments for fu-
16 ture human space exploration; and

17 (M) include information on the phasing of
18 planned intermediate destinations, Mars mis-
19 sion risk areas and potential risk mitigation ap-
20 proaches, technology requirements and phasing
21 of required technology development activities,
22 the management strategy to be followed, related
23 ISS activities, planned international collabo-
24 rative activities, potential commercial contribu-
25 tions, and other activities relevant to the

1 achievement of the goal established in this sec-
2 tion.

3 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the
4 human exploration roadmap, the Administrator shall
5 consider—

6 (A) using key exploration capabilities,
7 namely the Space Launch System and Orion;

8 (B) using existing commercially available
9 technologies and capabilities or those tech-
10 nologies and capabilities being developed by in-
11 dustry for commercial purposes;

12 (C) establishing an organizational ap-
13 proach to ensure collaboration and coordination
14 among NASA’s Mission Directorates under sec-
15 tion 821, when appropriate, including to collect
16 and return to Earth a sample from the Martian
17 surface;

18 (D) building upon the initial uncrewed
19 mission, EM-1, and first crewed mission, EM-
20 2, of the Space Launch System and Orion to
21 establish a sustainable cadence of missions ex-
22 tending human exploration missions into cis-
23 lunar space, including anticipated timelines and
24 milestones;

1 (E) developing the robotic and precursor
2 missions and activities that will demonstrate,
3 test, and develop key technologies and capabili-
4 ties essential for achieving human missions to
5 Mars, including long-duration human oper-
6 ations beyond low-Earth orbit, space suits, solar
7 electric propulsion, deep space habitats, envi-
8 ronmental control life support systems, Mars
9 lander and ascent vehicle, entry, descent, land-
10 ing, ascent, Mars surface systems, and in-situ
11 resource utilization;

12 (F) demonstrating and testing 1 or more
13 habitat modules in cis-lunar space to prepare
14 for Mars missions;

15 (G) using public-private, firm fixed-price
16 partnerships, where practicable;

17 (H) collaborating with international, aca-
18 demic, and industry partners, when appro-
19 priate;

20 (I) any risks to human health and sensitive
21 onboard technologies, including radiation expo-
22 sure;

23 (J) any risks identified through research
24 outcomes under the NASA Human Research
25 Program's Behavioral Health Element; and

1 (K) the recommendations and ideas of sev-
2 eral independently developed reports or con-
3 cepts that describe potential Mars architectures
4 or concepts and identify Mars as the long-term
5 goal for human space exploration, including the
6 reports described under section 431.

7 (4) CRITICAL DECISION PLAN ON HUMAN SPACE
8 EXPLORATION.—As part of the human exploration
9 roadmap, the Administrator shall include a critical
10 decision plan—

11 (A) identifying and defining key decisions
12 guiding human space exploration priorities and
13 plans that need to be made before June 30,
14 2020, including decisions that may guide
15 human space exploration capability develop-
16 ment, precursor missions, long-term missions,
17 and activities;

18 (B) defining decisions needed to maximize
19 efficiencies and resources for reaching the near,
20 intermediate, and long-term goals and objec-
21 tives of human space exploration; and

22 (C) identifying and defining timelines and
23 milestones for a sustainable cadence of missions
24 beginning with EM-3 for the Space Launch

1 System and Orion to extend human exploration
2 from cis-lunar space to the surface of Mars.

3 (5) REPORTS.—

4 (A) INITIAL HUMAN EXPLORATION ROAD-
5 MAP.—The Administrator shall submit to the
6 appropriate committees of Congress—

7 (i) an initial human exploration road-
8 map, including a critical decision plan, be-
9 fore December 1, 2017; and

10 (ii) an updated human exploration
11 roadmap periodically as the Administrator
12 considers necessary but not less than bien-
13 nially.

14 (B) CONTENTS.—Each human exploration
15 roadmap under this paragraph shall include a
16 description of—

17 (i) the achievements and goals accom-
18 plished in the process of developing such
19 capabilities and technologies during the 2-
20 year period prior to the submission of the
21 human exploration roadmap; and

22 (ii) the expected goals and achieve-
23 ments in the following 2- year period.

24 (C) SUBMISSION WITH BUDGET.—Each
25 human exploration roadmap under this section

1 shall be included in the budget for that fiscal
2 year transmitted to Congress under section
3 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

4 **SEC. 433. ADVANCED SPACE SUIT CAPABILITY.**

5 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appro-
7 priate committees of Congress a detailed plan for achiev-
8 ing an advanced space suit capability that aligns with the
9 crew needs for exploration enabled by the Space Launch
10 System and Orion, including an evaluation of the merit
11 of delivering the planned suit system for use on the ISS.

12 **SEC. 434. ASTEROID ROBOTIC REDIRECT MISSION.**

13 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
14 ings:

15 (1) NASA initially estimated that the Asteroid
16 Robotic Redirect Mission would launch in December
17 2020 and cost no more than \$1,250,000,000, ex-
18 cluding launch and operations.

19 (2) On July 15, 2016, NASA conducted its Key
20 Decision Point–B review of the Asteroid Robotic Re-
21 direct Mission or approval for Phase B in mission
22 formulation.

23 (3) During the Key Decision Point–B review,
24 NASA estimated that costs have grown to
25 \$1,400,000,000 excluding launch and operations for

1 a launch in December 2021 and the agency must
2 evaluate whether to accept the increase or reduce the
3 Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission's scope to stay
4 within the cost cap set by the Administrator.

5 (4) In April 2015, the NASA Advisory Coun-
6 cil—

7 (A) issued a finding that—

8 (i) high-performance solar electric
9 propulsion will likely be an important part
10 of an architecture to send humans to
11 Mars; and

12 (ii) maneuvering a large test mass is
13 not necessary to provide a valid in-space
14 test of a new solar electric propulsion
15 stage;

16 (B) determined that a solar electric propul-
17 sion mission will contribute more directly to the
18 goal of sending humans to Mars if the mission
19 is focused entirely on development and valida-
20 tion of the solar electric propulsion stage; and

21 (C) determined that other possible motiva-
22 tions for acquiring and maneuvering a boulder,
23 such as asteroid science and planetary defense,
24 do not have value commensurate with their
25 probable cost.

1 (5) The Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission is
2 competing for resources with other critical explo-
3 ration development programs, including the Space
4 Launch System, Orion, commercial crew, and a hab-
5 itation module.

6 (6) In 2014, the NASA Advisory Council rec-
7 ommended that NASA conduct an independent cost
8 and technical assessment of the Asteroid Robotic
9 Redirect Mission.

10 (7) In 2015, the NASA Advisory Council rec-
11 ommended that NASA preserve the following key ob-
12 jectives if the program needed to be descoped:

13 (A) Development of high power solar elec-
14 tric propulsion.

15 (B) Ability to maneuver in a low gravity
16 environment in deep space.

17 (8) In January 2015 and July 2015, the NASA
18 Advisory Council expressed its concern to NASA
19 about the potential for growing costs for the pro-
20 gram and highlighted that choices would need to be
21 made about the program's content.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that—

24 (1) the technological and scientific goals of the
25 Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission have not been

1 demonstrated to Congress to be commensurate with
2 the cost; and

3 (2) alternative missions may provide a more
4 cost effective and scientifically beneficial means to
5 demonstrate the technologies needed for a human
6 mission to Mars that would otherwise be dem-
7 onstrated by the Asteroid Robotic Redirect Mission.

8 (c) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 180
9 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
10 trator shall—

11 (1) conduct an evaluation of—

12 (A) alternative approaches to the Asteroid
13 Robotic Redirect Mission for demonstrating the
14 technologies and capabilities needed for a
15 human mission to Mars that would otherwise be
16 demonstrated by the Asteroid Robotic Redirect
17 Mission;

18 (B) the scientific and technical benefits of
19 the alternative approaches under subparagraph
20 (A) to future human space exploration com-
21 pared to scientific and technical benefits of the
22 Asteroid Redirect Robotic Mission;

23 (C) the commercial benefits of the alter-
24 native approaches identified in subparagraph
25 (A), including the impact on the development of

1 domestic solar electric propulsion technology to
2 bolster United States competitiveness in the
3 global marketplace; and

4 (D) a comparison of the estimated costs of
5 the alternative approaches identified in sub-
6 paragraph (A); and

7 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of
8 Congress a report on the evaluation under para-
9 graph (1), including any recommendations.

10 **SEC. 435. MARS 2033 REPORT.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall con-
13 tract with an independent, non-governmental systems en-
14 gineering and technical assistance organization to study
15 a Mars human space flight mission to be launched in
16 2033.

17 (b) CONTENTS.—The study shall include—

18 (1) a technical development, test, fielding, and
19 operations plan using the Space Launch System,
20 Orion, and other systems to successfully launch such
21 a Mars human space flight mission by 2033;

22 (2) an annual budget profile, including cost es-
23 timates, for the technical development, test, fielding,
24 and operations plan to carry out a Mars human
25 space flight mission by 2033; and

1 (3) a comparison of the annual budget profile
2 to the 5-year budget profile contained in the Presi-
3 dent’s budget request for fiscal year 2017 under sec-
4 tion 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
7 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the
8 study, including findings and recommendations regarding
9 the Mars 2033 human space flight mission described in
10 subsection (a).

11 (d) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the
12 date the report is submitted under subsection (c), the Ad-
13 ministrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of
14 Congress an assessment by the NASA Advisory Council
15 of whether the proposal for a Mars human space flight
16 mission to be launched in 2033 is in the strategic interests
17 of the United States in space exploration.

18 **Subtitle D—TREAT Astronauts Act**

19 **SEC. 441. SHORT TITLE.**

20 This subtitle may be cited as the “To Research,
21 Evaluate, Assess, and Treat Astronauts Act” or the
22 “TREAT Astronauts Act”.

23 **SEC. 442. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
25 ings:

1 (1) Human space exploration can pose signifi-
2 cant challenges and is full of substantial risk, which
3 has ultimately claimed the lives of 24 NASA astro-
4 nauts serving in the line of duty.

5 (2) As United States government astronauts
6 participate in long-duration and exploration space
7 flight missions they may experience increased health
8 risks, such as vision impairment, bone
9 demineralization, and behavioral health and perform-
10 ance risks, and may be exposed to galactic cosmic
11 radiation. Exposure to high levels of radiation and
12 microgravity can result in acute and long-term
13 health consequences that can increase the risk of
14 cancer and tissue degeneration and have potential
15 effects on the musculoskeletal system, central nerv-
16 ous system, cardiovascular system, immune function,
17 and vision.

18 (3) To advance the goal of long-duration and
19 exploration space flight missions, United States gov-
20 ernment astronaut Scott Kelly participated in a 1-
21 year twins study in space while his identical twin
22 brother, former United States government astronaut
23 Mark Kelly, acted as a human control specimen on
24 Earth, providing an understanding of the physical,
25 behavioral, microbiological, and molecular reaction of

1 the human body to an extended period of time in
2 space.

3 (4) Since the Administration currently provides
4 medical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment for
5 United States government astronauts during their
6 active employment, given the unknown long-term
7 health consequences of long-duration space explo-
8 ration, the Administration has requested statutory
9 authority from Congress to provide medical moni-
10 toring, diagnosis, and treatment to former United
11 States government astronauts for psychological and
12 medical conditions associated with human space
13 flight.

14 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
15 gress that—

16 (1) the United States should continue to seek
17 the unknown and lead the world in space exploration
18 and scientific discovery as the Administration pre-
19 pares for long-duration and exploration space flight
20 in deep space and an eventual mission to Mars;

21 (2) data relating to the health of astronauts will
22 become increasingly valuable to improving our un-
23 derstanding of many diseases humans face on Earth;

24 (3) the Administration should provide the type
25 of monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described in

1 subsection (a) only for conditions the Administration
2 considers unique to the training or exposure to the
3 space flight environment of United States govern-
4 ment astronauts and should not require any former
5 United States Government astronauts to participate
6 in the Administration's monitoring;

7 (4) such monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment
8 should not replace a former United States govern-
9 ment astronaut's private health insurance;

10 (5) expanded data acquired from such moni-
11 toring, diagnosis, and treatment should be used to
12 tailor treatment, inform the requirements for new
13 space flight medical hardware, and develop controls
14 in order to prevent disease occurrence in the astro-
15 naut corps; and

16 (6) the 340-day space mission of Scott Kelly
17 aboard the ISS—

18 (A) was pivotal for the goal of the United
19 States for humans to explore deep space and
20 Mars as the mission generated new insight into
21 how the human body adjusts to weightlessness,
22 isolation, radiation, and the stress of long-dura-
23 tion space flight; and

1 (B) will help support the physical and
2 mental well-being of astronauts during longer
3 space exploration missions in the future.

4 **SEC. 443. MEDICAL MONITORING AND RESEARCH RELAT-**
5 **ING TO HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 201 of
7 title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 305
8 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 **“§ 20149. Medical monitoring and research relating to**
11 **human space flight**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
13 vision of law, the Administrator may provide for—

14 “(1) the medical monitoring and diagnosis of a
15 former United States government astronaut or a
16 former payload specialist for conditions that the Ad-
17 ministrator considers potentially associated with
18 human space flight; and

19 “(2) the treatment of a former United States
20 government astronaut or a former payload specialist
21 for conditions that the Administrator considers asso-
22 ciated with human space flight, including scientific
23 and medical tests for psychological and medical con-
24 ditions.

25 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) NO COST SHARING.—The medical moni-
2 toring, diagnosis, or treatment described in sub-
3 section (a) shall be provided without any deductible,
4 copayment, or other cost sharing obligation.

5 “(2) ACCESS TO LOCAL SERVICES.—The med-
6 ical monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment described
7 in subsection (a) may be provided by a local health
8 care provider if it is inadvisable due to the health
9 of the applicable former United States government
10 astronaut or former payload specialist for that
11 former United States government astronaut or
12 former payload specialist to travel to the Lyndon B.
13 Johnson Space Center, as determined by the Admin-
14 istrator.

15 “(3) SECONDARY PAYMENT.—Payment or reim-
16 bursement for the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or
17 treatment described in subsection (a) shall be sec-
18 ondary to any obligation of the United States Gov-
19 ernment or any third party under any other provi-
20 sion of law or contractual agreement to pay for or
21 provide such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treat-
22 ment. Any costs for items and services that may be
23 provided by the Administrator for medical moni-
24 toring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a)
25 that are not paid for or provided under such other

1 provision of law or contractual agreement, due to the
2 application of deductibles, copayments, coinsurance,
3 other cost sharing, or otherwise, are reimbursable by
4 the Administrator on behalf of the former United
5 States government astronaut or former payload spe-
6 cialist involved to the extent such items or services
7 are authorized to be provided by the Administrator
8 for such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment
9 under subsection (a).

10 “(4) CONDITIONAL PAYMENT.—The Adminis-
11 trator may provide for conditional payments for or
12 provide medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment
13 described in subsection (a) that is obligated to be
14 paid for or provided by the United States or any
15 third party under any other provision of law or con-
16 tractual agreement to pay for or provide such med-
17 ical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment if—

18 “(A) payment for (or the provision of)
19 such medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treat-
20 ment services has not been made (or provided)
21 or cannot reasonably be expected to be made
22 (or provided) promptly by the United States or
23 such third party, respectively; and

24 “(B) such payment (or such provision of
25 services) by the Administrator is conditioned on

1 reimbursement by the United States or such
2 third party, respectively, for such medical moni-
3 toring, diagnosis, or treatment.

4 “(c) EXCLUSIONS.—The Administrator may not—

5 “(1) provide for medical monitoring or diag-
6 nosis of a former United States government astro-
7 naut or former payload specialist under subsection
8 (a) for any psychological or medical condition that
9 is not potentially associated with human space flight;

10 “(2) provide for treatment of a former United
11 States government astronaut or former payload spe-
12 cialist under subsection (a) for any psychological or
13 medical condition that is not associated with human
14 space flight; or

15 “(3) require a former United States govern-
16 ment astronaut or former payload specialist to par-
17 ticipate in the medical monitoring, diagnosis, or
18 treatment authorized under subsection (a).

19 “(d) PRIVACY.—Consistent with applicable provisions
20 of Federal law relating to privacy, the Administrator shall
21 protect the privacy of all medical records generated under
22 subsection (a) and accessible to the Administration.

23 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall pro-
24 mulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this
25 section.

1 “(f) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
2 ASTRONAUT.—In this section, the term ‘United States
3 government astronaut’ has the meaning given the term
4 ‘government astronaut’ in section 50902, except it does
5 not include an individual who is an international partner
6 astronaut.

7 “(g) DATA USE AND DISCLOSURE.—The Adminis-
8 trator may use or disclose data acquired in the course of
9 medical monitoring, diagnosis, or treatment of a former
10 United States government astronaut or a former payload
11 specialist under subsection (a), in accordance with sub-
12 section (d). Former United States government astronaut
13 or former payload specialist participation in medical moni-
14 toring, diagnosis, or treatment under subsection (a) shall
15 constitute consent for the Administrator to use or disclose
16 such data.”.

17 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
18 chapter 201 of title 51, United States Code, as amended
19 by section 305 of this Act, is further amended by inserting
20 after the item relating to section 20148 the following:

“20149. Medical monitoring and research relating to human space flight.”.

21 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, not later
23 than the date of submission of the President’s an-
24 nual budget request for that fiscal year under sec-
25 tion 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Ad-

1 administrator shall publish a report, in accordance
2 with applicable Federal privacy laws, on the activi-
3 ties of the Administration under section 20149 of
4 title 51, United States Code.

5 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph
6 (1) shall include a detailed cost accounting of the
7 Administration’s activities under section 20149 of
8 title 51, United States Code, and a 5-year budget
9 estimate.

10 (3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Adminis-
11 trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of
12 Congress each report under paragraph (1) not later
13 than the date of submission of the President’s an-
14 nual budget request for that fiscal year under sec-
15 tion 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

16 (d) COST ESTIMATE.—

17 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
19 trator shall enter into an arrangement with an inde-
20 pendent external organization to undertake an inde-
21 pendent cost estimate of the cost to the Administra-
22 tion and the Federal Government to implement and
23 administer the activities of the Administration under
24 section 20149 of title 51, United States Code. The
25 independent external organization may not be a

1 NASA entity, such as the Office of Safety and Mis-
2 sion Assurance.

3 (2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
4 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
5 the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate
6 committees of Congress the independent cost esti-
7 mate under paragraph (1).

8 (e) PRIVACY STUDY.—

9 (1) STUDY.—The Administrator shall carry out
10 a study on any potential privacy or legal issues re-
11 lated to the possible sharing beyond the Federal
12 Government of data acquired under the activities of
13 the Administration under section 20149 of title 51,
14 United States Code.

15 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
17 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
18 gress a report containing the results of the study
19 carried out under paragraph (1).

20 (f) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The Inspector
21 General of NASA shall periodically audit or review, as the
22 Inspector General considers necessary to prevent waste,
23 fraud, and abuse, the activities of the Administration
24 under section 20149 of title 51, United States Code.

1 **TITLE V—ADVANCING SPACE**
2 **SCIENCE**

3 **SEC. 501. MAINTAINING A BALANCED SPACE SCIENCE**
4 **PORTFOLIO.**

5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.—
6 Congress reaffirms the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) a balanced and adequately funded set of ac-
8 tivities, consisting of research and analysis grant
9 programs, technology development, suborbital re-
10 search activities, and small, medium, and large space
11 missions, contributes to a robust and productive
12 science program and serves as a catalyst for innova-
13 tion and discovery; and

14 (2) the Administrator should set science prior-
15 ities by following the guidance provided by the sci-
16 entific community through the National Academies
17 of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s decadal
18 surveys.

19 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to
20 ensure, to the extent practicable, a steady cadence of
21 large, medium, and small science missions.

22 **SEC. 502. PLANETARY SCIENCE.**

23 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) Administration support for planetary
2 science is critical to enabling greater understanding
3 of the solar system and the origin of the Earth;

4 (2) the United States leads the world in plan-
5 etary science and can augment its success in that
6 area with appropriate international, academic, and
7 industry partnerships;

8 (3) a mix of small, medium, and large planetary
9 science missions is required to sustain a steady ca-
10 dence of planetary exploration; and

11 (4) robotic planetary exploration is a key com-
12 ponent of preparing for future human exploration.

13 (b) MISSION PRIORITIES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the pri-
15 orities established in the most recent Planetary
16 Science Decadal Survey, the Administrator shall en-
17 sure, to the greatest extent practicable, the comple-
18 tion of a balanced set of Discovery, New Frontiers,
19 and Flagship missions at the cadence recommended
20 by the most recent Planetary Science Decadal Sur-
21 vey.

22 (2) MISSION PRIORITY ADJUSTMENTS.—Con-
23 sistent with the set of missions described in para-
24 graph (1), and while maintaining the continuity of
25 scientific data and steady development of capabilities

1 and technologies, the Administrator may seek, if
2 necessary, adjustments to mission priorities, sched-
3 ule, and scope in light of changing budget projec-
4 tions.

5 **SEC. 503. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) the James Webb Space Telescope will—

8 (A) significantly advance our under-
9 standing of star and planet formation, and im-
10 prove our knowledge of the early universe; and

11 (B) support United States leadership in
12 astrophysics;

13 (2) consistent with annual Government Ac-
14 countability Office reviews of the James Webb Space
15 Telescope program, the Administrator should con-
16 tinue robust surveillance of the performance of the
17 James Webb Space Telescope project and continue
18 to improve the reliability of cost estimates and con-
19 tractor performance data and other major space
20 flight projects in order to enhance NASA's ability to
21 successfully deliver the James Webb Space Telescope
22 on-time and within budget;

23 (3) the on-time and on-budget delivery of the
24 James Webb Space Telescope is a high congressional
25 priority; and

1 (4) the Administrator should ensure that inte-
2 grated testing is appropriately timed and sufficiently
3 comprehensive to enable potential issues to be identi-
4 fied and addressed early enough to be handled with-
5 in the James Webb Space Telescope’s development
6 schedule and prior to its launch.

7 **SEC. 504. WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.**

8 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
9 gress that—

10 (1) the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope
11 (referred to in this section as “WFIRST”) mission
12 has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that
13 will transform our understanding of the universe;
14 and

15 (2) the Administrator, to the extent practicable,
16 should make progress on the technologies and capa-
17 bilities needed to position the Administration to
18 meet the objectives, as outlined in the 2010 National
19 Academies’ Astronomy and Astrophysics Decadal
20 Survey, in a way that maximizes the scientific pro-
21 ductivity of meeting those objectives for the re-
22 sources invested.

23 (b) CONTINUITY OF DEVELOPMENT.—The Adminis-
24 trator shall ensure that the concept definition and pre-
25 formulation activities of the WFIRST mission continue

1 while the James Webb Space Telescope is being com-
2 pleted.

3 **SEC. 505. MARS 2020 ROVER.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the Mars 2020 mission, to develop a Mars
6 rover and to enable the return of samples to Earth,
7 should remain a priority for NASA; and

8 (2) the Mars 2020 mission—

9 (A) should significantly increase our un-
10 derstanding of Mars;

11 (B) should help determine whether life pre-
12 viously existed on that planet; and

13 (C) should provide opportunities to gather
14 knowledge and demonstrate technologies that
15 address the challenges of future human expedi-
16 tions to Mars.

17 **SEC. 506. EUROPA.**

18 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
19 ings:

20 (1) Studies of Europa, Jupiter’s moon, indicate
21 that Europa may provide a habitable environment,
22 as it contains key ingredients known to support life.

23 (2) In 2012, using the Hubble Space Telescope,
24 NASA scientists observed water vapor around the

1 south polar region of Europa, which provides poten-
2 tial evidence of water plumes in that region.

3 (3) For decades, the Europa mission has con-
4 sistently ranked as a high priority mission for the
5 scientific community.

6 (4) The Europa mission was ranked as the top
7 priority mission in the previous Planetary Science
8 Decadal Survey and ranked as the second-highest
9 priority in the current Planetary Science Decadal
10 Survey.

11 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that—

13 (1) the Europa mission could provide another
14 avenue in which to capitalize on our Nation’s cur-
15 rent investment in the Space Launch System that
16 would significantly reduce the transit time for such
17 a deep space mission; and

18 (2) a scientific, robotic exploration mission to
19 Europa, as prioritized in both Planetary Science
20 Decadal Surveys, should be supported.

21 **SEC. 507. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY AND**
22 **PURPOSE.**

23 Section 20102(d) of title 51, United States Code, is
24 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(10) The search for life’s origin, evolution, dis-
2 tribution, and future in the universe.”.

3 **SEC. 508. EXTRASOLAR PLANET EXPLORATION STRATEGY.**

4 (a) STRATEGY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
6 enter into an arrangement with the National Acad-
7 emies to develop a science strategy for the study and
8 exploration of extrasolar planets, including the use
9 of the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, the
10 James Webb Space Telescope, a potential Wide-
11 Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, or any
12 other telescope, spacecraft, or instrument, as appro-
13 priate.

14 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy shall—

15 (A) outline key scientific questions;

16 (B) identify the most promising research
17 in the field;

18 (C) indicate the extent to which the mis-
19 sion priorities in existing decadal surveys ad-
20 dress the key extrasolar planet research and ex-
21 ploration goals;

22 (D) identify opportunities for coordination
23 with international partners, commercial part-
24 ners, and not-for-profit partners; and

1 (E) make recommendations regarding the
2 activities under subparagraphs (A) through
3 (D), as appropriate.

4 (b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use
5 the strategy—

6 (1) to inform roadmaps, strategic plans, and
7 other activities of the Administration as they relate
8 to extrasolar planet research and exploration; and

9 (2) to provide a foundation for future activities
10 and initiatives related to extrasolar planet research
11 and exploration.

12 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
13 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Na-
14 tional Academies shall submit to the Administrator and
15 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report con-
16 taining the strategy developed under subsection (a).

17 **SEC. 509. ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY.**

18 (a) STRATEGY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
20 enter into an arrangement with the National Acad-
21 emies to develop a science strategy for astrobiology
22 that would outline key scientific questions, identify
23 the most promising research in the field, and indi-
24 cate the extent to which the mission priorities in ex-
25 isting decadal surveys address the search for life's

1 origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Uni-
2 verse.

3 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The strategy shall
4 include recommendations for coordination with inter-
5 national partners.

6 (b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use
7 the strategy developed under subsection (a) in planning
8 and funding research and other activities and initiatives
9 in the field of astrobiology.

10 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
11 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Na-
12 tional Academies shall submit to the Administrator and
13 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report con-
14 taining the strategy developed under subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 510. ASTROBIOLOGY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

16 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
17 of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appro-
18 priate committees of Congress a report describing how the
19 Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to
20 study life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in
21 the universe.

22 **SEC. 511. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.**

23 Section 321 of the National Aeronautics and Space
24 Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. note

1 prec. 71101) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(e) PROGRAM REPORT.—The Director of the Office
4 of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator
5 shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
6 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
7 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives, not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
9 ment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
10 tion Transition Authorization Act of 2017, an initial re-
11 port that provides—

12 “(1) recommendations for carrying out the Sur-
13 vey program and an associated proposed budget;

14 “(2) an analysis of possible options that the Ad-
15 ministration could employ to divert an object on a
16 likely collision course with Earth; and

17 “(3) a description of the status of efforts to co-
18 ordinate and cooperate with other countries to dis-
19 cover hazardous asteroids and comets, plan a mitiga-
20 tion strategy, and implement that strategy in the
21 event of the discovery of an object on a likely colli-
22 sion course with Earth.

23 “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—After the initial report
24 under subsection (e), the Administrator shall annually
25 transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

1 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on
2 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives a report that includes—

4 “(1) a summary of all activities carried out
5 under subsection (d) since the date of enactment of
6 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
7 Transition Authorization Act of 2017, including the
8 progress toward achieving 90 percent completion of
9 the survey described in subsection (d); and

10 “(2) a summary of expenditures for all activi-
11 ties carried out under subsection (d) since the date
12 of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space
13 Administration Transition Authorization Act of
14 2017.

15 “(g) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator, in collabora-
16 tion with other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out
17 a technical and scientific assessment of the capabilities
18 and resources—

19 “(1) to accelerate the survey described in sub-
20 section (d); and

21 “(2) to expand the Administration’s Near-Earth
22 Object Program to include the detection, tracking,
23 cataloguing, and characterization of potentially haz-
24 ardous near-Earth objects less than 140 meters in
25 diameter.

1 “(h) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after
2 the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and
3 Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of
4 2017, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the
5 assessment under subsection (g) to the Committee on
6 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and
7 the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the
8 House of Representatives.”.

9 **SEC. 512. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PART-**
10 **NERSHIPS.**

11 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that the Administration should seek to leverage the
13 capabilities of the private sector and philanthropic organi-
14 zations to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out
15 the Near-Earth Object Survey Program in order to meet
16 the goal of that program under section 321(d)(1) of the
17 National Aeronautics and Space Administration Author-
18 ization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. note prec. 71101(d)(1)).

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
21 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report de-
22 scribing how the Administration can expand collaborative
23 partnerships to detect, track, catalogue, and categorize
24 near-Earth objects.

1 **SEC. 513. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.**

2 Section 30504 of title 51, United States Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **“§ 30504. Assessment of science mission extensions**

5 “(a) ASSESSMENTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
7 carry out triennial reviews within each of the Science
8 divisions to assess the cost and benefits of extending
9 the date of the termination of data collection for
10 those missions that exceed their planned missions’
11 lifetime.

12 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting an as-
13 sessment under paragraph (1), the Administrator
14 shall consider whether and how extending missions
15 impacts the start of future missions.

16 “(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF PO-
17 TENTIAL BENEFITS OF INSTRUMENTS ON MISSIONS.—
18 When deciding whether to extend a mission that has an
19 operational component, the Administrator shall—

20 “(1) consult with any affected Federal agency;
21 and

22 “(2) take into account the potential benefits of
23 instruments on missions that are beyond their
24 planned mission lifetime.

25 “(c) REPORTS.—The Administrator shall submit to
26 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

1 of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and
2 Technology of the House of Representatives, at the same
3 time as the submission to Congress of the Administra-
4 tion's annual budget request for each fiscal year, a report
5 detailing any assessment under subsection (a) that was
6 carried out during the previous year.”.

7 **SEC. 514. STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED**
8 **ASTRONOMY.**

9 The Administrator may not terminate science oper-
10 ations of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared As-
11 tronomy before December 31, 2017.

12 **SEC. 515. RADIOISOTOPE POWER SYSTEMS.**

13 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
14 gress that—

15 (1) exploration of the outer reaches of the solar
16 system is enabled by radioisotope power systems;

17 (2) establishing continuity in the production of
18 the material needed for radioisotope power systems
19 is essential to maintaining the availability of such
20 systems for future deep space exploration missions;
21 and

22 (3) Federal agencies supporting the Adminis-
23 tration through the production of such material
24 should do so in a cost effective manner so as not to

1 impose excessive reimbursement requirements on the
2 Administration.

3 (b) ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS.—The
4 Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
5 and the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of
6 other Federal agencies, shall conduct an analysis of—

7 (1) the requirements of the Administration for
8 radioisotope power system material that is needed to
9 carry out planned, high priority robotic missions in
10 the solar system and other surface exploration activi-
11 ties beyond low-Earth orbit; and

12 (2) the risks to missions of the Administration
13 in meeting those requirements, or any additional re-
14 quirements, due to a lack of adequate radioisotope
15 power system material.

16 (c) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis con-
17 ducted under subsection (b) shall—

18 (1) detail the Administration's current pro-
19 jected mission requirements and associated time-
20 frames for radioisotope power system material;

21 (2) explain the assumptions used to determine
22 the Administration's requirements for the material,
23 including—

24 (A) the planned use of advanced thermal
25 conversion technology such as advanced

1 thermocouples and Stirling generators and con-
2 verters; and

3 (B) the risks and implications of, and con-
4 tingencies for, any delays or unanticipated tech-
5 nical challenges affecting or related to the Ad-
6 ministration's mission plans for the anticipated
7 use of advanced thermal conversion technology;

8 (3) assess the risk to the Administration's pro-
9 grams of any potential delays in achieving the sched-
10 ule and milestones for planned domestic production
11 of radioisotope power system material;

12 (4) outline a process for meeting any additional
13 Administration requirements for the material;

14 (5) estimate the incremental costs required to
15 increase the amount of material produced each year,
16 if such an increase is needed to support additional
17 Administration requirements for the material;

18 (6) detail how the Administration and other
19 Federal agencies will manage, operate, and fund
20 production facilities and the design and development
21 of all radioisotope power systems used by the Ad-
22 ministration and other Federal agencies as nec-
23 essary;

24 (7) specify the steps the Administration will
25 take, in consultation with the Department of En-

1 ergy, to preserve the infrastructure and workforce
2 necessary for production of radioisotope power sys-
3 tems and ensure that its reimbursements to the De-
4 partment of Energy associated with such preserva-
5 tion are equitable and justified; and

6 (8) detail how the Administration has imple-
7 mented or rejected the recommendations from the
8 National Research Council’s 2009 report titled “Ra-
9 dioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Main-
10 taining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration.”

11 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
13 shall submit the results of the analysis to the appropriate
14 committees of Congress.

15 **SEC. 516. ASSESSMENT OF MARS ARCHITECTURE.**

16 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter
17 into an arrangement with the National Academies of
18 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to assess—

19 (1) the Administration’s Mars exploration ar-
20 chitecture and its responsiveness to the strategies,
21 priorities, and guidelines put forward by the Na-
22 tional Academies’ planetary science decadal surveys
23 and other relevant National Academies Mars-related
24 reports;

1 (1) a robust aeronautics research portfolio will
2 help maintain the United States status as a leader
3 in aviation, enhance the competitiveness of the
4 United States in the world economy, and improve
5 the quality of life of all citizens;

6 (2) aeronautics research is essential to the Ad-
7 ministration's mission, continues to be an important
8 core element of the Administration's mission, and
9 should be supported;

10 (3) the Administrator should coordinate and
11 consult with relevant Federal agencies and the pri-
12 vate sector to minimize duplication of efforts and le-
13 verage resources; and

14 (4) carrying aeronautics research to a level of
15 maturity that allows the Administration's research
16 results to be transferred to the users, whether pri-
17 vate or public sector, is critical to their eventual
18 adoption.

19 **SEC. 602. TRANSFORMATIVE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator
21 should look strategically into the future and ensure that
22 the Administration's Center personnel are at the leading
23 edge of aeronautics research by encouraging investigations
24 into the early-stage advancement of new processes, novel

1 concepts, and innovative technologies that have the poten-
2 tial to meet national aeronautics needs.

3 **SEC. 603. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.**

4 (a) ROADMAP FOR HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.—Not
5 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
6 the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other
7 relevant Federal agencies, shall develop and submit to the
8 appropriate committees of Congress a research and devel-
9 opment roadmap for hypersonic aircraft research.

10 (b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the roadmap is to
11 explore hypersonic science and technology using air-
12 breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theo-
13 retical work, basic and applied research, and development
14 of flight research demonstration vehicles.

15 (c) CONTENTS.—The roadmap shall recommend ap-
16 propriate Federal agency contributions, coordination ef-
17 forts, and technology milestones.

18 **SEC. 604. SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.**

19 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

20 (1) the ability to fly commercial aircraft over
21 land at supersonic speeds without adverse impacts
22 on the environment or on local communities could
23 open new global markets and enable new transpor-
24 tation capabilities; and

1 (2) continuing the Administration’s research
2 program is necessary to assess the impact in a rel-
3 evant environment of commercial supersonic flight
4 operations and provide the basis for establishing ap-
5 propriate sonic boom standards for such flight oper-
6 ations.

7 (b) ROADMAP FOR SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
10 shall develop and submit to the appropriate commit-
11 tees of Congress a roadmap that allows for flexible
12 funding profiles for supersonic aeronautics research
13 and development.

14 (2) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the roadmap
15 is to develop and demonstrate, in a relevant environ-
16 ment, airframe and propulsion technologies to mini-
17 mize the environmental impact, including noise, of
18 supersonic overland flight in an efficient and eco-
19 nomical manner.

20 (3) CONTENTS.—The roadmap shall include—

21 (A) the baseline research as embodied by
22 the Administration’s existing research on super-
23 sonic flight;

24 (B) a list of specific technological, environ-
25 mental, and other challenges that must be over-

1 come to minimize the environmental impact, in-
2 cluding noise, of supersonic overland flight;

3 (C) a research plan to address the chal-
4 lenges under subparagraph (B), including a
5 project timeline for accomplishing relevant re-
6 search goals;

7 (D) a plan for coordination with stake-
8 holders, including relevant government agencies
9 and industry; and

10 (E) a plan for how the Administration will
11 ensure that sonic boom research is coordinated
12 as appropriate with relevant Federal agencies.

13 **SEC. 605. ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.**

14 (a) ROADMAP FOR ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.—Not
15 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,
16 the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other
17 relevant Federal agencies, shall prepare and submit to the
18 appropriate committees of Congress a roadmap for re-
19 search relating to rotorcraft and other runway-inde-
20 pendent air vehicles.

21 (b) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the roadmap is to
22 develop and demonstrate improved safety, noise, and envi-
23 ronmental impact in a relevant environment.

24 (c) CONTENTS.—The roadmap shall include specific
25 goals for the research, a timeline for implementation,

1 metrics for success, and guidelines for collaboration and
2 coordination with industry and other Federal agencies.

3 **TITLE VII—SPACE TECHNOLOGY**

4 **SEC. 701. SPACE TECHNOLOGY INFUSION.**

5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SPACE TECHNOLOGY.—

6 It is the sense of Congress that space technology is crit-
7 ical—

8 (1) to developing technologies and capabilities
9 that will make the Administration’s core missions
10 more affordable and more reliable;

11 (2) to enabling a new class of Administration
12 missions beyond low-Earth orbit; and

13 (3) to improving technological capabilities and
14 promote innovation for the Administration and the
15 Nation.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROPULSION TECH-

17 NOLOGY.—It is the sense of Congress that advancing pro-
18 pulsion technology would improve the efficiency of trips
19 to Mars and could shorten travel time to Mars, reduce
20 astronaut health risks, and reduce radiation exposure,
21 consumables, and mass of materials required for the jour-
22 ney.

23 (c) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States
24 that the Administrator shall develop technologies to sup-
25 port the Administration’s core missions, as described in

1 section 2(3) of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
2 ministration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C.
3 18301(3)), and support sustained investments in early
4 stage innovation, fundamental research, and technologies
5 to expand the boundaries of the national aerospace enter-
6 prise.

7 (d) PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES.—A goal of propul-
8 sion technologies developed under subsection (c) shall be
9 to significantly reduce human travel time to Mars.

10 **SEC. 702. SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

11 (a) SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—
12 The Administrator shall conduct a space technology pro-
13 gram (referred to in this section as the “Program”) to
14 research and develop advanced space technologies that
15 could deliver innovative solutions across the Administra-
16 tion’s space exploration and science missions.

17 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the Program,
18 the Administrator shall consider—

19 (1) the recommendations of the National Acad-
20 emies’ review of the Administration’s Space Tech-
21 nology roadmaps and priorities; and

22 (2) the applicable enabling aspects of the step-
23 ping stone approach to exploration under section
24 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

1 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the Program,
2 the Administrator shall—

3 (1) to the extent practicable, use a competitive
4 process to select research and development projects;

5 (2) to the extent practicable and appropriate,
6 use small satellites and the Administration’s sub-
7 orbital and ground-based platforms to demonstrate
8 space technology concepts and developments; and

9 (3) as appropriate, partner with other Federal
10 agencies, universities, private industry, and foreign
11 countries.

12 (d) SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—The Adminis-
13 trator shall organize and manage the Administration’s
14 Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small
15 Business Technology Transfer Program within the Pro-
16 gram.

17 (e) NONDUPLICATION CERTIFICATION.—The Admin-
18 istrator shall submit a budget for each fiscal year, as
19 transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31,
20 United States Code, that avoids duplication of projects,
21 programs, or missions conducted by Program with other
22 projects, programs, or missions conducted by another of-
23 fice or directorate of the Administration.

24 (f) COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND ALIGN-
25 MENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

2 (A) ensure that the Administration’s
3 projects, programs, and activities in support of
4 technology research and development of ad-
5 vanced space technologies are fully coordinated
6 and aligned;

7 (B) ensure that the results the projects,
8 programs, and activities under subparagraph
9 (A) are shared and leveraged within the Admin-
10 istration; and

11 (C) ensure that the organizational respon-
12 sibility for research and development activities
13 in support of human space exploration not initi-
14 ated as of the date of enactment of this Act is
15 established on the basis of a sound rationale.

16 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
17 Congress that projects, programs, and missions
18 being conducted by the Human Exploration and Op-
19 erations Mission Directorate in support of research
20 and development of advanced space technologies and
21 systems focusing on human space exploration should
22 continue in that Directorate.

23 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
24 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide
25 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

1 (1) comparing the Administration’s space tech-
2 nology investments with the high-priority technology
3 areas identified by the National Academies in the
4 National Research Council’s report on the Adminis-
5 tration’s Space Technology Roadmaps; and

6 (2) including—

7 (A) identification of how the Administra-
8 tion will address any gaps between the agency’s
9 investments and the recommended technology
10 areas, including a projection of funding require-
11 ments; and

12 (B) identification of the rationale described
13 in subsection (f)(1)(C).

14 (h) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall in-
15 clude in the Administration’s annual budget request for
16 each fiscal year the rationale for assigning organizational
17 responsibility for, in the year prior to the budget fiscal
18 year, each initiated project, program, and mission focused
19 on research and development of advanced technologies for
20 human space exploration.

1 **TITLE VIII—MAXIMIZING**
2 **EFFICIENCY**
3 **Subtitle A—Agency Information**
4 **Technology and Cybersecurity**

5 **SEC. 811. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in a
7 manner that reflects the unique nature of NASA’s mission
8 and expertise—

9 (1) ensure the NASA Chief Information Officer,
10 Mission Directorates, and Centers have appropriate
11 roles in the management, governance, and oversight
12 processes related to information technology oper-
13 ations and investments and information security pro-
14 grams for the protection of NASA systems;

15 (2) ensure the NASA Chief Information Officer
16 has the appropriate resources and insight to oversee
17 NASA information technology and information secu-
18 rity operations and investments;

19 (3) provide an information technology program
20 management framework to increase the efficiency
21 and effectiveness of information technology invest-
22 ments, including relying on metrics for identifying
23 and reducing potential duplication, waste, and cost;

24 (4) improve the operational linkage between the
25 NASA Chief Information Officer and each NASA

1 mission directorate, center, and mission support of-
2 fice to ensure both agency and mission needs are
3 considered in agency-wide information technology
4 and information security management and oversight;

5 (5) review the portfolio of information tech-
6 nology investments and spending, including informa-
7 tion technology-related investments included as part
8 of activities within NASA mission directorates that
9 may not be considered information technology, to en-
10 sure investments are recognized and reported appro-
11 priately based on guidance from the Office of Man-
12 agement and Budget;

13 (6) consider appropriate revisions to the char-
14 ters of information technology boards and councils
15 that inform information technology investment and
16 operation decisions; and

17 (7) consider whether the NASA Chief Informa-
18 tion Officer should have a seat on any boards or
19 councils described in paragraph (6).

20 (b) GAO STUDY.—

21 (1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the
22 United States shall conduct a study of the effective-
23 ness of the Administration's Information Technology
24 Governance in ensuring information technology re-

1 sources are aligned with agency missions and are
2 cost effective and secure.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The study shall include an as-
4 sessment of—

5 (A) the resources available for overseeing
6 Administration-wide information technology op-
7 erations, investments, and security measures
8 and the NASA Chief Information Officer’s visi-
9 bility and involvement into information tech-
10 nology oversight and access to those resources;

11 (B) the effectiveness and challenges of the
12 Administration’s information technology struc-
13 ture, decision making processes and authorities,
14 including impacts on its ability to implement in-
15 formation security; and

16 (C) the impact of NASA Chief Information
17 Officer approval authority over information
18 technology investments that exceed a defined
19 monetary threshold, including any potential im-
20 pacts of such authority on the Administration’s
21 missions, flights programs and projects, re-
22 search activities, and Center operations.

23 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-
25 eral shall submit to the appropriate committees of

1 Congress a report detailing the results of the study
2 under paragraph (1), including any recommenda-
3 tions.

4 **SEC. 812. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Ad-
6 ministrator shall develop an information technology stra-
7 tegic plan to guide NASA information technology manage-
8 ment and strategic objectives.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the strategic
10 plan, the Administrator shall ensure that the strategic
11 plan addresses—

12 (1) the deadline under section 306(a) of title 5,
13 United States Code; and

14 (2) the requirements under section 3506 of title
15 44, United States Code.

16 (c) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan shall address, in
17 a manner that reflects the unique nature of NASA’s mis-
18 sion and expertise—

19 (1) near and long-term goals and objectives for
20 leveraging information technology;

21 (2) a plan for how NASA will submit to Con-
22 gress of a list of information technology projects, in-
23 cluding completion dates and risk level in accordance
24 with guidance from the Office of Management and
25 Budget;

1 (3) an implementation overview for an agency-
2 wide approach to information technology investments
3 and operations, including reducing barriers to cross-
4 center collaboration;

5 (4) coordination by the NASA Chief Informa-
6 tion Officer with centers and mission directorates to
7 ensure that information technology policies are effec-
8 tively and efficiently implemented across the agency;

9 (5) a plan to increase the efficiency and effec-
10 tiveness of information technology investments, in-
11 cluding a description of how unnecessarily duplica-
12 tive, wasteful, legacy, or outdated information tech-
13 nology across NASA will be identified and elimi-
14 nated, and a schedule for the identification and
15 elimination of such information technology;

16 (6) a plan for improving the information secu-
17 rity of agency information and agency information
18 systems, including improving security control assess-
19 ments and role-based security training of employees;
20 and

21 (7) submission by NASA to Congress of infor-
22 mation regarding high risk projects and
23 cybersecurity risks.

24 (d) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Adminis-
25 trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-

1 gress the strategic plan under subsection (a) and any up-
2 dates thereto.

3 **SEC. 813. CYBERSECURITY.**

4 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the security of
5 NASA information and information systems is vital to the
6 success of the mission of the agency.

7 (b) INFORMATION SECURITY PLAN.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
10 shall implement the information security plan devel-
11 oped under paragraph (2) and take such further ac-
12 tions as the Administrator considers necessary to
13 improve the information security system in accord-
14 ance with this section.

15 (2) INFORMATION SECURITY PLAN.—Subject to
16 paragraphs (3) and (4), the Administrator shall de-
17 velop an agency-wide information security plan to
18 enhance information security for NASA information
19 and information infrastructure.

20 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the plan
21 under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall ensure
22 that the plan—

23 (A) reflects the unique nature of NASA's
24 mission and expertise;

1 (B) is informed by policies, standards,
2 guidelines, and directives on information secu-
3 rity required for Federal agencies;

4 (C) is consistent with the standards and
5 guidelines under section 11331 of title 40,
6 United States Code; and

7 (D) meets applicable National Institute of
8 Standards and Technology information security
9 standards and guidelines.

10 (4) CONTENTS.—The plan shall address—

11 (A) an overview of the requirements of the
12 information security system;

13 (B) an agency-wide risk management
14 framework for information security;

15 (C) a description of the information secu-
16 rity system management controls and common
17 controls that are necessary to ensure compli-
18 ance with information security-related require-
19 ments;

20 (D) an identification and assignment of
21 roles, responsibilities, and management commit-
22 ment for information security at the agency;

23 (E) coordination among organizational en-
24 tities, including between each center, facility,
25 mission directorate, and mission support office,

1 and among agency entities responsible for dif-
2 ferent aspects of information security;

3 (F) the need to protect the information se-
4 curity of mission-critical systems and activities
5 and high-impact and moderate-impact informa-
6 tion systems; and

7 (G) a schedule of frequent reviews and up-
8 dates, as necessary, of the plan.

9 **SEC. 814. SECURITY MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONAL**
10 **ACCESS.**

11 The Administrator shall notify the appropriate com-
12 mittees of Congress when the agency has implemented the
13 information technology security recommendations from
14 the National Academy of Public Administration on foreign
15 national access management, based on reports from Janu-
16 ary 2014 and March 2016.

17 **SEC. 815. CYBERSECURITY OF WEB APPLICATIONS.**

18 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
19 of this Act, the Administrator shall, in a manner that re-
20 flects the unique nature of NASA's mission and exper-
21 tise—

22 (1) develop a plan, including such actions and
23 milestones as are necessary, to fully remediate secu-
24 rity vulnerabilities of NASA web applications within
25 a timely fashion after discovery; and

1 (2) provide an update on its plan to implement
2 the recommendation from the NASA Inspector Gen-
3 eral in the audit report dated July 10, 2014, (IG-
4 14-023) to remove from the Internet or otherwise
5 secure all NASA web applications in development or
6 testing mode.

7 **Subtitle B—Collaboration Among**
8 **Mission Directorates and Other**
9 **Matters**

10 **SEC. 821. COLLABORATION AMONG MISSION DIREC-**
11 **TORATES.**

12 The Administrator shall encourage an interdiscipli-
13 nary approach among all NASA mission directorates and
14 divisions, whenever appropriate, for projects or missions—

15 (1) to improve coordination, and encourage col-
16 laboration and early planning on scope;

17 (2) to determine areas of overlap or alignment;

18 (3) to find ways to leverage across divisional
19 perspectives to maximize outcomes; and

20 (4) to be more efficient with resources and
21 funds.

22 **SEC. 822. NASA LAUNCH CAPABILITIES COLLABORATION.**

23 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following find-
24 ings:

1 (1) The Launch Services Program is respon-
2 sible for the acquisition, management, and technical
3 oversight of commercial launch services for NASA’s
4 science and robotic missions.

5 (2) The Commercial Crew Program is respon-
6 sible for the acquisition, management, and technical
7 oversight of commercial crew transportation systems.

8 (3) The Launch Services Program and Com-
9 mercial Crew Program have worked together to gain
10 exceptional technical insight into the contracted
11 launch service providers that are common to both
12 programs.

13 (4) The Launch Services Program has a long
14 history of oversight of 12 different launch vehicles
15 and over 80 launches.

16 (5) Co-location of the Launch Services Program
17 and Commercial Crew Program has enabled the
18 Commercial Crew Program to efficiently obtain the
19 launch vehicle technical expertise of and provide en-
20 gineering and analytical support to the Commercial
21 Crew Program.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that—

24 (1) the Launch Services Program and Commer-
25 cial Crew Program each benefit from communication

1 and coordination of launch manifests, technical in-
2 formation, and common launch vehicle insight be-
3 tween the programs; and

4 (2) such communication and coordination is en-
5 abled by the co-location of the programs.

6 (c) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall pursue a
7 strategy for acquisition of crewed transportation services
8 and non-crewed launch services that continues to enhance
9 communication, collaboration, and coordination between
10 the Launch Services Program and the Commercial Crew
11 Program.

12 **SEC. 823. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT**
13 **PARTS.**

14 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
15 ings:

16 (1) A 2012 investigation by the Committee on
17 Armed Services of the Senate of counterfeit elec-
18 tronic parts in the Department of Defense supply
19 chain from 2009 through 2010 uncovered 1,800
20 cases and over 1,000,000 counterfeit parts and ex-
21 posed the threat such counterfeit parts pose to serv-
22 ice members and national security.

23 (2) Since 2010, the Comptroller General of the
24 United States has identified in 3 separate reports
25 the risks and challenges associated with counterfeit

1 parts and counterfeit prevention at both the Depart-
2 ment of Defense and NASA, including inconsistent
3 definitions of counterfeit parts, poorly targeted qual-
4 ity control practices, and potential barriers to im-
5 provements to these practices.

6 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the presence of counterfeit electronic parts in
8 the NASA supply chain poses a danger to United States
9 government astronauts, crew, and other personnel and a
10 risk to the agency overall.

11 (c) REGULATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
14 trator shall revise the NASA Supplement to the
15 Federal Acquisition Regulation to improve the detec-
16 tion and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts in
17 the supply chain.

18 (2) CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—In revis-
19 ing the regulations under paragraph (1), the Admin-
20 istrator shall—

21 (A) require each covered contractor—

22 (i) to detect and avoid the use or in-
23 clusion of any counterfeit parts in elec-
24 tronic parts or products that contain elec-
25 tronic parts;

1 (ii) to take such corrective actions as
2 the Administrator considers necessary to
3 remedy the use or inclusion described in
4 clause (i); and

5 (iii) including a subcontractor, to no-
6 tify the applicable NASA contracting offi-
7 cer not later than 30 calendar days after
8 the date the covered contractor becomes
9 aware, or has reason to suspect, that any
10 end item, component, part or material con-
11 tained in supplies purchased by NASA, or
12 purchased by a covered contractor or sub-
13 contractor for delivery to, or on behalf of,
14 NASA, contains a counterfeit electronic
15 part or suspect counterfeit electronic part;
16 and

17 (B) prohibit the cost of counterfeit elec-
18 tronic parts, suspect counterfeit electronic
19 parts, and any corrective action described under
20 subparagraph (A)(ii) from being included as al-
21 lowable costs under agency contracts, unless—

22 (i)(I) the covered contractor has an
23 operational system to detect and avoid
24 counterfeit electronic parts and suspect
25 counterfeit electronic parts that has been

1 reviewed and approved by NASA or the
2 Department of Defense; and

3 (II) the covered contractor has
4 provided the notice under subpara-
5 graph (A)(iii); or

6 (ii) the counterfeit electronic parts or
7 suspect counterfeit electronic parts were
8 provided to the covered contractor as Gov-
9 ernment property in accordance with part
10 45 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

11 (3) SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.—In re-
12 vising the regulations under paragraph (1), the Ad-
13 ministrator shall—

14 (A) require NASA and covered contractors,
15 including subcontractors, at all tiers—

16 (i) to obtain electronic parts that are
17 in production or currently available in
18 stock from—

19 (I) the original manufacturers of
20 the parts or their authorized dealers;
21 or

22 (II) suppliers who obtain such
23 parts exclusively from the original
24 manufacturers of the parts or their
25 authorized dealers; and

1 (ii) to obtain electronic parts that are
2 not in production or currently available in
3 stock from suppliers that meet qualifica-
4 tion requirements established under sub-
5 paragraph (C);

6 (B) establish documented requirements
7 consistent with published industry standards or
8 Government contract requirements for—

9 (i) notification of the agency; and

10 (ii) inspection, testing, and authen-
11 tication of electronic parts that NASA or
12 a covered contractor, including a subcon-
13 tractor, obtains from any source other
14 than a source described in subparagraph
15 (A);

16 (C) establish qualification requirements,
17 consistent with the requirements of section
18 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant
19 to which NASA may identify suppliers that
20 have appropriate policies and procedures in
21 place to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic
22 parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts;
23 and

24 (D) authorize a covered contractor, includ-
25 ing a subcontractor, to identify and use addi-

1 tional suppliers beyond those identified under
2 subparagraph (C) if—

3 (i) the standards and processes for
4 identifying such suppliers comply with es-
5 tablished industry standards;

6 (ii) the covered contractor assumes re-
7 sponsibility for the authenticity of parts
8 provided by such suppliers under para-
9 graph (2); and

10 (iii) the selection of such suppliers is
11 subject to review and audit by NASA.

12 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COVERED CONTRACTOR.—The term “cov-
14 ered contractor” means a contractor that supplies
15 an electronic part, or a product that contains an
16 electronic part, to NASA.

17 (2) ELECTRONIC PART.—The term “electronic
18 part” means a discrete electronic component, includ-
19 ing a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or
20 diode, that is intended for use in a safety or mission
21 critical application.

22 **SEC. 824. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

23 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that—

1 (1) United States competitiveness in the 21st
2 century requires engaging the science, technology,
3 engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this
4 section as “STEM”) talent in all States;

5 (2) the Administration is uniquely positioned to
6 educate and inspire students and the broader public
7 on STEM subjects and careers;

8 (3) the Administration’s Education and Com-
9 munication Offices, Mission Directorates, and Cen-
10 ters have been effective in delivering educational
11 content because of the strong engagement of Admin-
12 istration scientists and engineers in the Administra-
13 tion’s education and outreach activities;

14 (4) the Administration’s education and outreach
15 programs, including the Experimental Program to
16 Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and the
17 Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, re-
18 flect the Administration’s successful commitment to
19 growing and diversifying the national science and
20 engineering workforce; and

21 (5) in order to grow and diversify the Nation’s
22 engineering workforce, it is vital for the Administra-
23 tion to bolster programs, such as High Schools
24 United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH)
25 program, that conduct outreach activities to under-

1 served rural communities, vocational schools, and
2 tribal colleges and universities and encourage new
3 participation in the STEM workforce.

4 (b) CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
5 ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall con-
7 tinue engagement with the public and education op-
8 portunities for students via all the Administration’s
9 mission directorates to the maximum extent prac-
10 ticable.

11 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
13 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
14 gress a report on the Administration’s near-term
15 outreach plans for advancing space law education.

16 **SEC. 825. LEVERAGING COMMERCIAL SATELLITE SERV-**
17 **ICING CAPABILITIES ACROSS MISSION DI-**
18 **RECTORATES.**

19 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
20 ings:

21 (1) Refueling and relocating aging satellites to
22 extend their operational lifetimes is a capacity that
23 NASA will substantially benefit from and is impor-
24 tant for lowering the costs of ongoing scientific, na-
25 tional security, and commercial satellite operations.

1 (2) The technologies involved in satellite serv-
2 icing, such as dexterous robotic arms, propellant
3 transfer systems, and solar electric propulsion, are
4 all critical capabilities to support a human explo-
5 ration mission to Mars.

6 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that—

8 (1) satellite servicing is a vital capability that
9 will bolster the capacity and affordability of NASA’s
10 ongoing scientific and human exploration operations
11 while simultaneously enhancing the ability of domes-
12 tic companies to compete in the global marketplace;
13 and

14 (2) future NASA satellites and spacecraft
15 across mission directorates should be constructed in
16 a manner that allows for servicing in order to maxi-
17 mize operational longevity and affordability.

18 (c) LEVERAGING OF CAPABILITIES.—The Adminis-
19 trator shall—

20 (1) identify orbital assets in both the Science
21 Mission Directorate and the Human Exploration
22 and Operations Mission Directorate that could ben-
23 efit from satellite servicing-related technologies; and

24 (2) work across all NASA mission directorates
25 to evaluate opportunities for the private sector to

1 perform such services or advance technical capabili-
2 ties by leveraging the technologies and techniques
3 developed by NASA programs and other industry
4 programs.

5 **SEC. 826. FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES.**

6 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PAYLOADS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to conduct nec-
8 essary research, the Administrator shall continue
9 and, as the Administrator considers appropriate, ex-
10 pand the development of technology payloads for—

11 (A) scientific research; and

12 (B) investigating new or improved capabili-
13 ties.

14 (2) FUNDS.—For the purpose of carrying out
15 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall make funds
16 available for—

17 (A) flight testing;

18 (B) payload development; and

19 (C) hardware related to subparagraphs (A)
20 and (B).

21 (b) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—Congress reaf-
22 firms that the Administrator should provide flight oppor-
23 tunities for payloads to microgravity environments and
24 suborbital altitudes as authorized by section 907 of the

1 National Aeronautics and Space Administration Author-
2 ization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18405).

3 **SEC. 827. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SMALL CLASS LAUNCH**
4 **MISSIONS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) Venture Class Launch Services contracts
7 awarded under the Launch Services Program will
8 expand opportunities for future dedicated launches
9 of CubeSats and other small satellites and small or-
10 bital science missions; and

11 (2) principal investigator-led small orbital
12 science missions, including CubeSat class, Small Ex-
13 plorer (SMEX) class, and Venture class, offer valu-
14 able opportunities to advance science at low cost,
15 train the next generation of scientists and engineers,
16 and enable participants to acquire skills in systems
17 engineering and systems integration that are critical
18 to maintaining the Nation’s leadership in space and
19 to enhancing United States innovation and competi-
20 tiveness abroad.

21 **SEC. 828. BASELINE AND COST CONTROLS.**

22 Section 30104(a)(1) of title 51, United States Code,
23 is amended by striking “Procedural Requirements
24 7120.5c, dated March 22, 2005” and inserting “Proce-
25 dural Requirements 7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012”.

1 **SEC. 829. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 Section 50116(a) of title 51, United States Code, is
4 amended by inserting “, while protecting national secu-
5 rity” after “research community”.

6 **SEC. 830. AVOIDING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF IN-**
7 **TEREST IN MAJOR ADMINISTRATION ACQUI-**
8 **SITION PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later
10 than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
11 the Administrator shall revise the Administration Supple-
12 ment to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide uni-
13 form guidance and recommend revised requirements for
14 organizational conflicts of interest by contractors in major
15 acquisition programs in order to address the elements
16 identified in subsection (b).

17 (b) ELEMENTS.—The revised regulations under sub-
18 section (a) shall, at a minimum—

19 (1) address organizational conflicts of interest
20 that could potentially arise as a result of—

21 (A) lead system integrator contracts on
22 major acquisition programs and contracts that
23 follow lead system integrator contracts on such
24 programs, particularly contracts for production;

25 (B) the ownership of business units per-
26 forming systems engineering and technical as-

1 sistance functions, professional services, or
2 management support services in relation to
3 major acquisition programs by contractors who
4 simultaneously own business units competing to
5 perform as either the prime contractor or the
6 supplier of a major subsystem or component for
7 such programs;

8 (C) the award of major subsystem con-
9 tracts by a prime contractor for a major acqui-
10 sition program to business units or other affili-
11 ates of the same parent corporate entity, and
12 particularly the award of subcontracts for soft-
13 ware integration or the development of a pro-
14 prietary software system architecture; or

15 (D) the performance by, or assistance of,
16 contractors in technical evaluations on major
17 acquisition programs;

18 (2) require the Administration to request advice
19 on systems architecture and systems engineering
20 matters with respect to major acquisition programs
21 from objective sources independent of the prime con-
22 tractor;

23 (3) require that a contract for the performance
24 of systems engineering and technical assistance
25 functions for a major acquisition program contains

1 a provision prohibiting the contractor or any affiliate
2 of the contractor from participating as a prime con-
3 tractor or a major subcontractor in the development
4 of a system under the program; and

5 (4) establish such limited exceptions to the re-
6 quirement in paragraphs (2) and (3) as the Admin-
7 istrator considers necessary to ensure that the Ad-
8 ministration has continued access to advice on sys-
9 tems architecture and systems engineering matters
10 from highly qualified contractors with domain expe-
11 rience and expertise, while ensuring that such advice
12 comes from sources that are objective and unbiased.

13 **SEC. 831. PROTECTION OF APOLLO LANDING SITES.**

14 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of the Office of
15 Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with rel-
16 evant Federal agencies and stakeholders, shall assess the
17 issues relating to protecting and preserving historically
18 important Apollo Program lunar landing sites and Apollo
19 program artifacts residing on the lunar surface, including
20 those pertaining to Apollo 11 and Apollo 17.

21 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the assessment, the
22 Director shall include—

23 (1) a determination of what risks to the protec-
24 tion and preservation of those sites and artifacts
25 exist or may exist in the future;

1 (2) a determination of what measures are re-
2 quired to ensure such protection and preservation;

3 (3) a determination of the extent to which addi-
4 tional domestic legislation or international treaties
5 or agreements will be required; and

6 (4) specific recommendations for protecting and
7 preserving those lunar landing sites and artifacts.

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the
10 appropriate committees of Congress the results of the as-
11 sessment.

12 **SEC. 832. NASA LEASE OF NON-EXCESS PROPERTY.**

13 Section 20145(g) of title 51, United States Code, is
14 amended by striking “10 years after December 26, 2007”
15 and inserting “December 31, 2018”.

16 **SEC. 833. TERMINATION LIABILITY.**

17 It is the sense of Congress that—

18 (1) the ISS, the Space Launch System, and the
19 Orion will enable the Nation to continue operations
20 in low-Earth orbit and to send its astronauts to deep
21 space;

22 (2) the James Webb Space Telescope will revo-
23 lutionize our understanding of star and planet for-
24 mation and how galaxies evolved, and will advance
25 the search for the origins of our universe;

1 (3) as a result of their unique capabilities and
2 their critical contribution to the future of space ex-
3 ploration, these systems have been designated by
4 Congress and the Administration as priority invest-
5 ments;

6 (4) contractors are currently holding program
7 funding, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions
8 of dollars, to cover the potential termination liability
9 should the Government choose to terminate a pro-
10 gram for convenience;

11 (5) as a result, hundreds of millions of taxpayer
12 dollars are unavailable for meaningful work on these
13 programs;

14 (6) according to the Government Accountability
15 Office, the Administration procures most of its
16 goods and services through contracts, and it termi-
17 nates very few of them;

18 (7) in fiscal year 2010, the Administration ter-
19 minated 28 of 16,343 active contracts and orders, a
20 termination rate of about 0.17 percent; and

21 (8) the Administration should vigorously pursue
22 a policy on termination liability that maximizes the
23 utilization of its appropriated funds to make max-
24 imum progress in meeting established technical goals

1 and schedule milestones on these high-priority pro-
2 grams.

3 **SEC. 834. INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.**

4 Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appro-
6 priate committees of Congress a report describing—

7 (1) the Administration's procedures for con-
8 ducting independent reviews of projects and pro-
9 grams at lifecycle milestones;

10 (2) how the Administration ensures the inde-
11 pendence of the individuals who conduct those re-
12 views prior to their assignment;

13 (3) the internal and external entities inde-
14 pendent of project and program management that
15 conduct reviews of projects and programs at life
16 cycle milestones; and

17 (4) how the Administration ensures the inde-
18 pendence of such entities and their members.

19 **SEC. 835. NASA ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

20 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter
21 into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public
22 Administration to assess the effectiveness of the NASA
23 Advisory Council and to make recommendations to Con-
24 gress for any change to—

25 (1) the functions of the Council;

1 (2) the appointment of members to the Council;

2 (3) the qualifications for members of the Coun-

3 cil;

4 (4) the duration of terms of office for members

5 of the Council;

6 (5) the frequency of meetings of the Council;

7 (6) the structure of leadership and Committees

8 of the Council; and

9 (7) the levels of professional staffing for the

10 Council.

11 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the assess-

12 ment under subsection (a), the National Academy of Pub-

13 lic Administration shall—

14 (1) consider the impacts of broadening the

15 Council's role to include providing consultation and

16 advice to Congress under section 20113(g) of title

17 51, United States Code;

18 (2) consider the past activities of the Council

19 and the activities of other analogous Federal advi-

20 sory bodies; and

21 (3) any other issues that the National Academy

22 of Public Administration determines could poten-

23 tially impact the effectiveness of the Council.

24 (c) REPORT.—The National Academy of Public Ad-

25 ministration shall submit to the appropriate committees

1 of Congress the results of the assessment, including any
2 recommendations.

3 (d) CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 20113(g) of title 51,
5 United States Code, is amended by inserting “and
6 Congress” after “advice to the Administration”.

7 (2) SUNSET.—Effective September 30, 2017,
8 section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is
9 amended by striking “and Congress”.

10 **SEC. 836. COST ESTIMATION.**

11 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that—

13 (1) realistic cost estimating is critically impor-
14 tant to the ultimate success of major space develop-
15 ment projects; and

16 (2) the Administration has devoted significant
17 efforts over the past 5 years to improving its cost es-
18 timating capabilities, but it is important that the
19 Administration continue its efforts to develop and
20 implement guidance in establishing realistic cost es-
21 timates.

22 (b) GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA.—The Administrator
23 shall provide to its acquisition programs and projects, in
24 a manner consistent with the Administration’s Space
25 Flight Program and Project Management Requirements—

1 (1) guidance on when to use an Independent
2 Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment;
3 and

4 (2) criteria to use to make a determination
5 under paragraph (1).

6 **SEC. 837. FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.**

7 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that—

9 (1) the Administration must address, mitigate,
10 and reverse, where possible, the deterioration of its
11 facilities and infrastructure, as their condition is
12 hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of re-
13 search performed by both the Administration and in-
14 dustry participants making use of Administration fa-
15 cilities, thus harming the competitiveness of the
16 United States aerospace industry;

17 (2) the Administration has a role in providing
18 laboratory capabilities to industry participants that
19 are not economically viable as commercial entities
20 and thus are not available elsewhere;

21 (3) to ensure continued access to reliable and
22 efficient world-class facilities by researchers, the Ad-
23 ministration should establish strategic partnerships
24 with other Federal agencies, State agencies, FAA-li-

1 censed spaceports, institutions of higher education,
2 and industry, as appropriate; and

3 (4) decisions on whether to dispose of, main-
4 tain, or modernize existing facilities must be made
5 in the context of meeting Administration and other
6 needs, including those required to meet the activities
7 supporting the human exploration roadmap under
8 section 432 of this Act, considering other national
9 laboratory needs as the Administrator deems appro-
10 priate.

11 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States
12 that the Administration maintain reliable and efficient fa-
13 cilities and infrastructure and that decisions on whether
14 to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities or
15 infrastructure be made in the context of meeting future
16 Administration needs.

17 (c) PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall de-
19 velop a facilities and infrastructure plan.

20 (2) GOAL.—The goal of the plan is to position
21 the Administration to have the facilities and infra-
22 structure, including laboratories, tools, and ap-
23 proaches, necessary to meet future Administration
24 and other Federal agencies' laboratory needs.

25 (3) CONTENTS.—The plan shall identify—

1 (A) current Administration and other Fed-
2 eral agency laboratory needs;

3 (B) future Administration research and de-
4 velopment and testing needs;

5 (C) a strategy for identifying facilities and
6 infrastructure that are candidates for disposal,
7 that is consistent with the national strategic di-
8 rection set forth in—

9 (i) the National Space Policy;

10 (ii) the National Aeronautics Re-
11 search, Development, Test, and Evaluation
12 Infrastructure Plan;

13 (iii) the National Aeronautics and
14 Space Administration Authorization Act of
15 2005 (Public Law 109–155; 119 Stat.
16 2895), National Aeronautics and Space
17 Administration Authorization Act of 2008
18 (Public Law 110-422; 122 Stat. 4779),
19 and National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
20 ministration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
21 U.S.C. 18301 et seq.); and

22 (iv) the human exploration roadmap
23 under section 432 of this Act;

24 (D) a strategy for the maintenance, repair,
25 upgrading, and modernization of Administra-

1 tion facilities and infrastructure, including lab-
2 oratories and equipment;

3 (E) criteria for—

4 (i) prioritizing deferred maintenance
5 tasks;

6 (ii) maintaining, repairing, upgrading,
7 or modernizing Administration facilities
8 and infrastructure; and

9 (iii) implementing processes, plans,
10 and policies for guiding the Administra-
11 tion’s Centers on whether to maintain, re-
12 pair, upgrade, or modernize a facility or
13 infrastructure and for determining the type
14 of instrument to be used;

15 (F) an assessment of modifications needed
16 to maximize usage of facilities that offer unique
17 and highly specialized benefits to the aerospace
18 industry and the American public; and

19 (G) implementation steps, including a
20 timeline, milestones, and an estimate of re-
21 sources required for carrying out the plan.

22 (d) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH POLICY.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
25 trator shall establish and make publicly available a

1 policy that guides the Administration’s use of exist-
2 ing authorities to out-grant, lease, excess to the
3 General Services Administration, sell, decommission,
4 demolish, or otherwise transfer property, facilities,
5 or infrastructure.

6 (2) CRITERIA.—The policy shall include criteria
7 for the use of authorities, best practices, standard-
8 ized procedures, and guidelines for how to appro-
9 priately manage property, facilities, and infrastruc-
10 ture.

11 (e) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
12 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
13 trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
14 gress the plan developed under subsection (c).

15 **SEC. 838. HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT ACCIDENT INVESTIGA-**
16 **TIONS.**

17 Section 70702 of title 51, United States Code, is
18 amended—

19 (1) by amending subsection (a)(3) to read as
20 follows:

21 “(3) any other orbital or suborbital space vehi-
22 cle carrying humans that is—

23 “(A) owned by the Federal Government; or

24 “(B) being used pursuant to a contract or

25 Space Act Agreement with the Federal Govern-

1 ment for carrying a government astronaut or a
2 researcher funded by the Federal Government;
3 or”); and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) GOVERNMENT ASTRONAUT.—The term
7 ‘government astronaut’ has the meaning given the
8 term in section 50902.

9 “(2) SPACE ACT AGREEMENT.—The term
10 ‘Space Act Agreement’ means an agreement entered
11 into by the Administration pursuant to its other
12 transactions authority under section 20113(e).”.

13 **SEC. 839. ORBITAL DEBRIS.**

14 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

15 (1) orbital debris poses serious risks to the
16 operational space capabilities of the United States;

17 (2) an international commitment and integrated
18 strategic plan are needed to mitigate the growth of
19 orbital debris wherever possible; and

20 (3) the delay in the Office of Science and Tech-
21 nology Policy’s submission of a report on the status
22 of international coordination and development of or-
23 bital debris mitigation strategies is inconsistent with
24 such risks.

25 (b) REPORTS.—

1 (1) COORDINATION.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
3 trator shall submit to the appropriate committees of
4 Congress a report on the status of efforts to coordi-
5 nate with foreign countries within the Inter-Agency
6 Space Debris Coordination Committee to mitigate
7 the effects and growth of orbital debris under sec-
8 tion 1202(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and
9 Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
10 U.S.C. 18441(b)(1)).

11 (2) MITIGATION STRATEGY.—Not later than 90
12 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Di-
13 rector of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
14 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
15 gress a report on the status of the orbital debris
16 mitigation strategy required under section
17 1202(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space
18 Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42
19 U.S.C. 18441(b)(2)).

20 **SEC. 840. REVIEW OF ORBITAL DEBRIS REMOVAL CON-**
21 **CEPTS.**

22 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that—

24 (1) orbital debris in low-Earth orbit poses sig-
25 nificant risks to spacecraft;

1 (2) such orbital debris may increase due to col-
2 lisions between existing debris objects; and

3 (3) understanding options to address and re-
4 move orbital debris is important for ensuring safe
5 and effective spacecraft operations in low-Earth
6 orbit.

7 (b) REVIEW.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
10 trator—

11 (A) in collaboration with the heads of other
12 relevant Federal agencies, shall solicit and re-
13 view concepts and options for removing orbital
14 debris from low-Earth orbit; and

15 (B) shall submit to the appropriate com-
16 mittees of Congress a report on the solicitation
17 and review under subparagraph (A), including
18 recommendations on the best options for de-
19 creasing the risks associated with orbital debris.

20 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The solicitation and re-
21 view under paragraph (1) shall address the require-
22 ments for and feasibility of developing and imple-
23 menting each of the options.

1 **SEC. 841. SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that, when used appropriately, Space Act Agree-
4 ments can provide significant value in furtherance of
5 NASA’s mission.

6 (b) FUNDED SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.—To the ex-
7 tent appropriate, the Administrator shall seek to maximize
8 the value of contributions provided by other parties under
9 a funded Space Act Agreement in order to advance
10 NASA’s mission.

11 (c) NONEXCLUSIVELY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, to
13 the greatest extent practicable, issue each Space Act
14 Agreement—

15 (A) except as provided in paragraph (2),
16 on a nonexclusive basis;

17 (B) in a manner that ensures all non-gov-
18 ernment parties have equal access to NASA re-
19 sources; and

20 (C) exercising reasonable care not to reveal
21 unique or proprietary information.

22 (2) EXCLUSIVELY.—If the Administrator deter-
23 mines an exclusive arrangement is necessary, the
24 Administrator shall, to the greatest extent prac-
25 ticable, issue the Space Act Agreement—

1 (A) utilizing a competitive selection process
2 when exclusive arrangements are necessary; and

3 (B) pursuant to public announcements
4 when exclusive arrangements are necessary.

5 (d) TRANSPARENCY.—The Administrator shall pub-
6 licly disclose on the Administration’s website and make
7 available in a searchable format each Space Act Agree-
8 ment, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sen-
9 sitive, or classified information, not later than 60 days
10 after such agreement is signed by the parties.

11 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

12 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days
13 after the end of each fiscal year, the Administrator
14 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
15 gress a report on the use of Space Act Agreement
16 authority by the Administration during the previous
17 fiscal year.

18 (2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include for
19 each Space Act Agreement in effect at the time of
20 the report—

21 (A) an indication of whether the agreement
22 is a reimbursable, non-reimbursable, or funded
23 Space Act Agreement;

24 (B) a description of—

25 (i) the subject and terms;

- 1 (ii) the parties;
- 2 (iii) the responsible—
 - 3 (I) Mission Directorate;
 - 4 (II) Center; or
 - 5 (III) headquarters element;
- 6 (iv) the value;
- 7 (v) the extent of the cost sharing
- 8 among Federal Government and non-Fed-
- 9 eral sources;
- 10 (vi) the time period or schedule; and
- 11 (vii) all milestones; and

12 (C) an indication of whether the agreement
13 was renewed during the previous fiscal year.

14 (3) ANTICIPATED AGREEMENTS.—The report
15 shall include a list of all anticipated reimbursable,
16 non-reimbursable, and funded Space Act Agreements
17 for the upcoming fiscal year.

18 (4) CUMULATIVE PROGRAM BENEFITS.—The
19 report shall include, with respect to each Space Act
20 Agreement covered by the report, a summary of—

21 (A) the technology areas in which research
22 projects were conducted under that agreement;

23 (B) the extent to which the use of that
24 agreement—

1 (i) has contributed to a broadening of
2 the technology and industrial base avail-
3 able for meeting Administration needs; and

4 (ii) has fostered within the technology
5 and industrial base new relationships and
6 practices that support the United States;
7 and

8 (C) the total amount of value received by
9 the Federal Government during the fiscal year
10 under that agreement.