

July 29, 2020

Rep. Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Steny Hoyer  
House Majority Leader  
H-107, The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
H-204, The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear U.S. House of Representatives Leadership:

The American Nuclear Society (ANS)<sup>1</sup> applauds the proposed National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Study on the Consequences of Racism in the fields of science, engineering, and medicine.

ANS supports Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's (D-TX-30) Amendment 116-60 to H.R. 7617, the Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Homeland Security, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act FY21. ANS is committed to creating a diverse and inclusionary environment for everyone involved with and interested in the nuclear science and engineering fields. The culture of learning and practicing science, engineering and medicine requires the elimination of racism and other exclusionary and isolating words, actions, and culture.

This study will be a valuable first step towards addressing racism and is particularly needed as we see first-hand narratives and peer-reviewed journals speak of marginalization.

A quote from a *Nature* article provides meaningful motivation for this NAS study,

"... scores of Black scientists candidly described times when colleagues and institutions had been hostile, insulting or made them feel unwelcome, and had made it difficult for them to simply do their jobs."<sup>2</sup>

A 2020 *Nature Human Behavior* article further states,

"Bias and racism in the biomedical community thwart scientific advancement, reduce the pipeline of diverse clinicians and scientists, and contribute to racial and ethnic health disparities. We advocate for proactive antiracism approaches

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<sup>1</sup> ANS works on behalf of its members to advocate for policies that advance nuclear science and technology. In Washington, D.C. and at the state level, ANS looks for opportunities to support policies that advance nuclear science in medicine, energy, education, and aerospace. ANS works in a variety of ways to encourage policies that recognize the benefits nuclear science and technology brings to our lives.

<sup>2</sup> How #BlackInTheVory put a spotlight on racism in academia, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01741-7>

to eliminate barriers impacting people of colour, promote equity and achieve a more effective biomedical community.”<sup>3</sup>

The proposed NAS study gives our society a foundational step forward on addressing, capturing, and developing tools to identify and eliminate racism in the fields of science, engineering, and medicine. This study will promote positive change on long-standing issues of equality in the United States.

For any additional questions please contact ANS Director of Government Relations, John Starkey at [jstarkey@ans.org](mailto:jstarkey@ans.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. H. Piercy', written in a cursive style.

Craig H. Piercy, Executive Director/CEO  
American Nuclear Society

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<sup>3</sup> Clark, U.S., Hurd, Y.L. Addressing racism and disparities in the biomedical sciences. Nat Hum Behavior (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-020-0917-7>