

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4570

To amend the Department of Agriculture program for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to redesignate the program as the “Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. ZINKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture program for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to redesignate the program as the “Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “100 Years of Women
5 in Congress Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The first woman elected to Congress, Rep-
4 resentative Jeannette Rankin from Montana, was
5 elected on November 7, 1916, almost four years
6 prior to ratification of the 19th Amendment to the
7 U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

8 (2) Jeannette Rankin was not only a pioneer in
9 national electoral politics, she was also a pioneer as
10 a woman in science, graduating from the University
11 of Montana in 1902 with a Bachelor of Science de-
12 gree in biology.

13 (3) 100 years after the election of Jeannette
14 Rankin, 108 women serve in the 114th Congress,
15 more than at any other time in our Nation's history.
16 While this improvement is commendable, women
17 hold only 20 percent of the seats in Congress, far
18 below their relative share of the American electorate.

19 (4) According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Sta-
20 tistics, women make up 47 percent of the total U.S.
21 workforce. Gains have been made in the science,
22 technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
23 fields over time, but women still comprise only 39
24 percent of chemists and material scientists, 28 per-
25 cent of environmental scientists and geoscientists, 16

1 percent of chemical engineers, and 12 percent of
2 civil engineers.

3 (5) More must be done to encourage women to
4 run for elected office and to enter STEM fields.

5 **SEC. 3. JEANNETTE RANKIN WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN**
6 **STEM FIELDS PROGRAM.**

7 Paragraph (7) of section 1672(d) of the Food, Agri-
8 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
9 5925(d)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(7) JEANNETTE RANKIN WOMEN AND MINORI-
11 TIES IN STEM FIELDS PROGRAM.—Research and ex-
12 tension grants may be made under this section to in-
13 crease participation by women and underrepresented
14 minorities from rural areas in the fields of science,
15 technology, engineering, and mathematics, with pri-
16 ority given to eligible institutions that carry out con-
17 tinuing programs funded by the Secretary. Any
18 grant made under this paragraph shall be known
19 and designated as a ‘Jeannette Rankin Women and
20 Minorities in STEM Fields Program Grant’.”.

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