

and I point out that this bill received a unanimous bipartisan voice vote in our committee, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask for an “aye” vote on the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5105, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5480) to improve programs and activities relating to women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment that are carried out by the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5480

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018”.

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Because women make up the majority of the world's poor and gender inequalities prevail in incomes, wages, access to finance, ownership of assets, and control over the allocation of resources, women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment is important to achieve inclusive economic growth at all levels of society. Research shows that when women exert greater influence over household finances, economic outcomes for families improve, and childhood survival rates, food security, and educational attainment increase. Women also tend to place a greater emphasis on household savings which improves families' financial resiliency.

(2) A 2016 report by the McKinsey Global Institute estimated that achieving global gender parity in economic activity could add as much as \$28 trillion to annual global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025.

(3) Lack of access to financial services that address gender-specific constraints impedes women's economic inclusion. More than one billion women around the world are currently left out of the formal financial system, which in turn causes many women to rely on informal means of saving and borrowing that are riskier and less reliable. Among other consequences, this hampers the success of women entrepreneurs, including those seeking to run or grow small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The International Finance Corporation has estimated that 70 percent of women-owned SMEs in the formal sector are unserved or underserved in terms of access to credit, amounting to a \$285 billion credit gap.

(4) Women's economic empowerment is inextricably linked to a myriad of other women's human rights that are essential to their ability to thrive as economic actors across the lifecycle. This includes, but is not limited to, living lives free of violence and exploitation, achieving the highest possible standard of health and well-being, enjoying full legal and human rights such as access to registration, identification, and citizenship documents, benefitting from formal and informal education, and equal protection of and access to land and property rights, access to fundamental labor rights, policies to address disproportionate care burdens, and business and management skills and leadership opportunities.

(5) Discriminatory legal and regulatory systems and banking practices are hurdles to women's access to capital and assets, including land, machinery, production facilities, technology, and human resources. Often, these barriers are connected to a woman's marital status, which can determine whether she is able to inherit land or own property in her name. These constraints contribute to women frequently running smaller businesses, with fewer employees and lower asset values.

(6) Savings groups primarily comprised of women are recognized as a vital entry point, especially for poor and very poor women, to formal financial services and there is a high demand for such groups to protect and grow their savings with formal financial institutions. Evidence shows that, once linked to a bank, the average savings per member increases between 40 to 100 percent and the average profit per member doubles. Key to these outcomes is investing in financial literacy, business leadership training, and mentorship.

(7) United States support for microenterprise and microfinance development programs, which seek to reduce poverty in low-income countries by giving small loans to small-scale entrepreneurs without collateral, have been a useful mechanism to help families weather economic shocks, but many microcredit borrowers largely remain in poverty. The vast majority of microcredit borrowers are women who would like to move up the economic ladder but are held back by binding constraints that create a “missing middle”—large numbers of microenterprises, a handful of large firms or conglomerates, and very few SMEs in between, which are critical to driving economic growth in developing countries.

(8) According to the World Bank, SMEs create 4 out of 5 new positions in emerging markets but about half of formal SMEs don't have access to formal credit. The financing gap is even larger when micro and informal enterprises are taken into account. Overall, approximately 70 percent of all micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in emerging markets lack access to credit.

### SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE GENDER POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY.—It shall be the development cooperation policy of the United States—

(1) to reduce gender disparities in access to, control over, and benefit from economic, social, political, and cultural resources, wealth, opportunities, and services;

(2) to strive to eliminate gender-based violence and mitigate its harmful effects on individuals and communities through efforts to develop standards and capacity to reduce gender-based violence in the workplace and other places where women conduct work;

(3) to support activities that secure private property rights and land tenure for women in developing countries, including legal frame-

works to give women equal rights to own, register, use, profit from, and inherit land and property, legal literacy to exercise these rights, and capacity of law enforcement and community leaders to enforce such rights; and

(4) to increase the capability of women and girls to realize their rights, determine their life outcomes, assume leadership roles, and influence decision-making in households, communities, and societies.

(b) ACTIONS.—In order to advance the policy described in subsection (a), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that—

(1) strategies, projects, and activities of the Agency are shaped by a gender analysis and, when applicable, use standard indicators to provide one measure of success of such strategies, projects, and activities; and

(2) gender equality and female empowerment is integrated throughout the Agency's Program Cycle and related processes for purposes of strategic planning, project design and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

(c) GENDER ANALYSIS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “gender analysis”—

(1) means a socio-economic analysis of available or gathered quantitative and qualitative information to identify, understand, and explain gaps between men and women which typically involves examining—

(A) differences in the status of women and men and their differential access to and control over assets, resources, opportunities, and services;

(B) the influence of gender roles, structural barriers, and norms on the division of time between paid employment, unpaid work (including subsistence production and care for family members), and volunteer activities;

(C) the influence of gender roles, structural barriers, and norms on leadership roles and decision making; constraints, opportunities, and entry points for narrowing gender gaps and empowering women; and

(D) potential differential impacts of development policies and programs on men and women, including unintended or negative consequences; and

(2) includes conclusions and recommendations to enable development policies and programs to narrow gender gaps and improve the lives of women and girls.

### SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES.

(a) FINDINGS AND POLICY.—Section 251 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “microenterprise” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprise”;

(B) by striking “and in the development” and inserting “, in the development”;

(C) by adding at the end before the period the following: “, and in the economic empowerment of the poor, especially women”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “microenterprise” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprise”;

(B) by adding at the end before the period the following: “, particularly those enterprises owned, managed, and controlled by women”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “microenterprises” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”;

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “microenterprise” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprise”;

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking “should continue” and inserting “should continue and be expanded”; and

(B) by striking “microenterprise and microfinance development assistance” and inserting “development assistance for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”; and

(6) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “have been successful” and inserting “have had some success”;

(B) by striking “microenterprise programs” and inserting “development assistance for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”; and

(C) by striking “, such as countries in Latin America”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION; IMPLEMENTATION; TARGETED ASSISTANCE.**—Section 252 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211a) is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “credit, savings, and other services” and inserting “credit, including the use of innovative credit scoring models, savings, financial technology, financial literacy, insurance, property rights, and other services”; and

(ii) by striking “microfinance and microenterprise clients” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprise clients”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “microfinance and microenterprise clients” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprise clients, particularly those clients owned, managed, and controlled by women”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “microenterprises” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”; and

(ii) by inserting “acquire United States goods and services,” after “United States markets,”;

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “microfinance and microenterprise institutions” and inserting “financial intermediaries”;

(ii) by striking “microfinance and microenterprise clients” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”; and

(iii) by striking “and” at the end;

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “microfinance and microenterprise clients and institutions” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, financial intermediaries, and capital markets”; and

(ii) by striking “the poor and very poor.” and inserting “the poor and very poor, especially women.”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) assistance for the purpose of promoting the economic empowerment of women, including through increased access to financial resources and improving property rights, inheritance rights, and other legal protections; and

“(6) assistance for the purpose of scaling up evidence-based graduation approaches, which include targeting the very poor and households in ultra-poverty, consumption support, promotion of savings, skills training, and asset transfers.”.

(2) In subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be established within the Agency an office to support the Agency’s efforts to broaden and deepen local financial markets, expand access to appropriate financial products and services, and support the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall possess technical expertise and ability to offer leadership in the field of financial sector development.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “USE OF CENTRAL FUNDING MECHANISMS.—” and all that follows through “In order to ensure” and inserting “USE OF

CENTRAL FUNDING MECHANISMS.—In order to ensure”;

(II) by striking “the office shall” and all that follows through “and other practitioners” and inserting “the office shall provide coordination and support for field-implemented programs, including through targeted core support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and local financial markets”; and

(III) by striking clause (ii);

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “, particularly by protecting the use and funding of local organizations in countries in which the Agency invests,” after “and sustainability”; and

(II) by inserting “, especially women” after “the poor and very poor”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3).

(3) In subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “all microenterprise resources” and inserting “all micro, small and medium-sized enterprise resources”; and

(B) by striking “clients who are very poor.” and all that follows and inserting “activities that reach the very poor, and 50 percent of all small and medium-sized enterprise resources shall be targeted to activities that reach enterprises owned, managed, and controlled by women.”.

(c) **MONITORING SYSTEM.**—Section 253(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211b(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, including goals on a gender disaggregated basis, such as improvements in employment, access to financial services, enterprise development, earnings and control over income, and property and land rights,” after “performance goals”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “include performance indicators” and all that follows through “the achievement” and inserting “incorporate Agency planning and reporting processes and indicators to measure or assess the achievement”; and

(3) by striking paragraph (4).

(d) **POVERTY MEASUREMENT METHODS.**—Section 254 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211c) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 254. POVERTY MEASUREMENT METHODS.**

“The Administrator of the Agency, in consultation with financial intermediaries and other appropriate organizations, should have in place at least one method for implementing partners to use to assess poverty levels of their current incoming or prospective clients.”.

(e) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.**—Section 255 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2211d) is amended—

(1) by striking “assistance for microenterprise development assistance” and inserting “development assistance for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”; and

(2) by striking “and, to the extent applicable” and all that follows and inserting a period.

(f) **MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CREDITS.**—Section 256 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2212) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT CREDITS**” and inserting “**DEVELOPMENT CREDITS FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “micro- and small enterprises” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “microenterprises” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”;

(3) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and other financial services” after “credit”;

(4) by striking “microenterprise households” each place it appears and inserting

“micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and households”; and

(5) by striking “microfinance institutions” each place it appears and inserting “financial intermediaries”.

(g) **UNITED STATES MICROFINANCE LOAN FACILITY.**—Section 257 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2213) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “United States-supported microfinance institutions” and inserting “United States-supported financial intermediaries”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “United States-supported microfinance institutions” each place it appears and inserting “United States-supported financial intermediaries”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “microfinance institutions” and inserting “financial intermediaries”.

(h) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—Subsection (b) of section 258 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2214) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **CONTENTS.**—To the extent practicable, the report should contain the following:

“(1) Information about assistance provided under section 252, including—

“(A) the amount of each grant or other form of assistance;

“(B) the name and type of each intermediary and implementing partner organization receiving assistance;

“(C) the name of each country receiving assistance; and

“(D) the methodology used to ensure compliance with the targeted assistance requirements in subsection (c) of such section.

“(2) The percentage of assistance provided under section 252 disaggregated by income level, including for the very poor, and gender.

“(3) The estimated number of individuals that received assistance provided under section 252 disaggregated by income level, including for the very poor, and gender, and by type of assistance, including loans, training, and business development services.

“(4) The results of the monitoring system required under section 253.

“(5) Information about any method in place to assess poverty levels under section 254.”.

(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 259 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2214a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Committee on International Relations” and inserting “Committee on Foreign Affairs”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “microenterprises” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”;

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “microenterprise institution” and inserting “micro, small and medium-sized enterprise institution”; and

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking “microfinance institution” and inserting “financial intermediary”;

(4) in paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) **MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISE INSTITUTION.**—The term ‘micro, small and medium-sized enterprise institution’ means an entity that provides services, including finance, training, or business development services, for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in foreign countries.”;

(5) in paragraph (8) to read as follows:

“(8) **FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY.**—The term ‘financial intermediary’ means the entity that acts as the intermediary between parties in a financial transaction, such as a bank, credit union, investment fund, a village savings and loan group, or an institution that provides financial services to a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise.”;

(6) by striking paragraph (9);

(7) by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (14) as paragraphs (9) through (13), respectively;

(8) in paragraph (9) (as redesignated), by striking “of microenterprise development”;

(9) in paragraph (10) to read as follows:

“(10) PRACTITIONER INSTITUTION.—The term ‘practitioner institution’ means a not-for-profit entity, financial intermediary, information and communications technology firm with a mobile money platform, a village and savings loan group, or any other entity that provides financial or business development services authorized under section 252 that benefits micro, small and medium-sized enterprise clients.”;

(10) in paragraph (12) (as redesignated)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “UNITED STATES-SUPPORTED MICROFINANCE INSTITUTION” and inserting “UNITED STATES-SUPPORTED FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY”;

(B) by striking “United States-supported microfinance institution” and inserting “United States-supported financial intermediary”;

(11) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (13) (as redesignated) to read as follows:

“(B) living below the International Poverty Line, as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association (collectively referred to as the ‘World Bank’).”;

(j) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title VI of chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended in the title heading by striking “MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE” and inserting “DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES”.

#### SEC. 5. REPORT AND BRIEFING BY UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall provide a briefing and submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, including actions to improve the gender policies of the United States Agency for International Development pursuant to section 3.

(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be posted and made available on a text-based, searchable, and publicly-available internet website.

#### SEC. 6. REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on development assistance for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises administered by the United States Agency for International Development.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

(1) What is known about the impact of such development assistance on the economies of developing countries.

(2) The extent to which such development assistance is targeting women and the very poor, including what is known about how such development assistance benefits women.

(3) The extent to which the United States Agency for International Development has developed a methodology used to ensure compliance with the targeted assistance re-

quirement in section 252(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended by section 4 of this Act, and the quality of such methodology.

(4) The monitoring system required in section 253(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended by section 4 of this Act, including the quality of such monitoring system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am the author of this measure. It is the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, and I want to thank those members on the staff that worked on this measure: Amy Porter, Joan Condon, Jessica Kelch, and Emily Cottle, and I thank them because around the globe, women make up the majority of the world's poor. This is due, in part, to gender constraints that in some places deny women access to basic financial services, like savings accounts.

Today, more than 1 billion women remain left outside of the formal financial system, and women-owned, small- and medium-sized enterprises face a \$300 billion credit gap. A 2014 analysis found that closing the gender gap and access to credit for small- and medium-sized women-owned businesses would increase per capita GDP by 12 percent in developing countries. That is because when women exercise greater influence over finances, literally, everyone benefits.

Childhood survival rates, food security, children's education, economic opportunity for families, all of that increases. Investment in women yields results for entire communities. Indeed, countries with high female labor force participation rates are more resilient to economic shocks and suffer fewer slowdowns in economic growth.

A 2016 report estimated that achieving global gender parity in economic activity by 2025 would add as much as \$28 trillion to annual GDP, an amount equal to the combined economies of the United States and China.

Confronting the barriers that keep women from being able to fully participate in their local markets is key to generating sustainable, economic growth. And this means not only expanding women's access to the financial system, but also, as cell phones become more and more available, expand-

ing their access to new financial technology like mobile money.

The Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act addresses barriers to women's economic inclusion in developing countries by requiring that all USAID strategies and projects and activities be shaped by a gender analysis and by expanding the agency's microenterprise assistance authorities to support small- and medium-sized women-owned businesses. This is critical as small- and medium-sized enterprises create four out of five new jobs in developing economies.

So the bill is the result of the committee's extended focus on empowering women and girls through U.S. foreign policy, which has been the subject of five full committee hearings and other subcommittee hearings in recent Congresses. Our women's empowerment initiative has produced significant legislation including: the Girls Count Act of 2015, the Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, and the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should invest our limited foreign assistance dollars wisely, and I have seen the good things that happen when we focus on empowering women. That is what this bill does, and I ask for my colleagues' support in helping to make it happen.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure, H.R. 5480, the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act. I want to thank Mr. ROYCE and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL for their work on this bill.

This is an important bill that expands U.S. development policy to empower women entrepreneurs in developing countries. In 2016, the McKinsey Global Institute estimated that achieving global gender parity in economic activity could add as much as \$28 trillion to the annual gross domestic product by the year 2025.

This bill will help unlock the productive power of women, and particularly women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises. In the interest of time, I won't go into the details because we have excellent speakers on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, which passed our committee by a unanimous bipartisan voice vote, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), chairwoman emerita on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and I ask unanimous consent that she may control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE for introducing

this important bipartisan measure before us today, and of course, congratulate both him and Ranking Member ENGEL, who work so well in bringing important legislation in a bipartisan manner to the floor every day.

This is H.R. 5480, the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, and I am a proud cosponsor of this bipartisan measure. We know that when women work, and the number of women in the workforce is increasing, there is a corresponding growth in economies.

The benefit that results from empowering women and expanding their economic activities are far reaching. They have a great society impact. From the household to communities, to local, State, and the Federal level, we would see drastic improvements if women not only had greater access, but greater influence over income and finances.

Yet, sadly, women continue to face seemingly insurmountable barriers that deter them from becoming full and equal members of society, particularly when it comes to access to formal financial institutions, and that is what this bill would do. It updates and expands USAID policies with respect to microenterprise assistance authority, to chip away at those barriers that exist now. It will also include support for small- and medium-sized enterprises. These are the real drivers of employment in so many places around the globe.

Also, it would provide women with greater access to economic activities. It will improve the working environment for women and support their property rights. It is a commonsense approach, Mr. Speaker. By increasing women's participation in the workforce around the world, we will be creating greater economic benefits with positive implications for all aspects of society.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support Mr. ROYCE's measure. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), the lead Democratic sponsor of this bill.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, keeping peace in the world, reducing terrorism, creating safe environments where countries can be self-reliant and people can be prosperous is not just about more guns and bombs.

Addressing the root causes of global upheaval is an important task. It is an important task of USAID that calls itself the world's premier development agency, which leads me to thank Mr. ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their bipartisan leadership and for the other cosponsors of this legislation for this very important bill that we call the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, which recognizes that when girls and women of the world are free from violence, educated, and have access to tools for

economic success, their communities are more safe, more economically vibrant, and more peaceful.

This is, of course, when women exert greater influence over household finances, economic outcomes for their families improve. The childhood survival rates go up, food security, and educational attainment increases for their children. Women actually place a greater emphasis on household savings, which improves a family's financial resiliency.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to comprehend the hardships and obstacles that women face globally. I think of a girl like Fatim, born in Mali. At just 8 months old, she was subjected to genital mutilation. By age 12, her father sold her for marriage to a man she had never met. She is among the one in three girls worldwide who will suffer gender-based violence.

I think of Nasha, a young Nigerian, desperate for an education, who walks miles, fearful of sexual violence or kidnapping just to get to class. She doesn't want to become one of the 130 million girls worldwide who are out of school; or Kamila, a woman in Pakistan who dreams of starting her own business and being able to care for her family, but discriminatory laws prevent her from owning property or accessing credit.

She is among the 1 billion women in the world excluded from the formal financial system. Given all of the roadblocks, it is not surprising that women and girls are the majority of the world's poor.

Here is the thing: Many of these cruel and unfair practices make the world poorer, too, as we have heard from my colleagues. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, a leading international private sector think tank, if we change this equation and we advance women's equality, we could add trillions to the global GDP in just years.

We are recognizing today that there is an undeniable link between women's economic success and global prosperity and peacefulness and security.

Now, this bill has several components. It makes it USAID policy to do the following: to reduce gender gaps in economic opportunity; to strive to eliminate gender-based violence; to support women's property rights; and to increase the capability of women and girls to determine their own future.

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Next, the bill requires that 50 percent of USAID's resources for small- and medium-sized enterprises be targeted to reach enterprises owned, managed, and controlled by women. It codifies USAID's practice of shaping policy and activities through a gender analysis.

As important, to ensure that our development assistance is reaching women, this legislation mandates that USAID track and measure improvements in women's economic empower-

ment, including employment, access to financial services, enterprise development, earnings and control over income, and property and land rights.

Finally, this legislation also expands the scope of development assistance from microenterprises to small- and medium-sized enterprises to reflect changes in the field.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me in support of this critical bill. Again, it is not about bombs, military, and guns. Remember this: when women succeed, when girls succeed, their nations succeed.

Mr. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for bringing this legislation, but especially my colleague, Congresswoman FRANKEL, for being such a champion for women's rights and issues not only in this country, but around the globe.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, which, as you have heard by those more eloquent than I, will help to ensure that women's economic development is a fundamental tenet of U.S. development policy.

Women tend to spend more of their money on family costs like education and healthcare than men do. Unfortunately, they lack access to financial services and must rely on riskier and less reliable means of borrowing and saving.

If global gender parity in economic activity were achieved, we could add as much as \$28 trillion to the annual global GDP. That should be incentive enough for us to work to ensure that our government understands and has the capabilities to meet the unique economic needs of women, particularly since women represent more than half the world's population and a majority of the world's poor.

Now, in addition to serving on the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am proud to be the co-chair of the Congressional Mongolian Caucus. We are working with the Mongolian Government to support the cashmere production industry to diversify its mining-dependent economy. Notably, an average of 90 percent of the workers in the Mongolian textile sector are female. So if we work to ensure that these women in the cashmere industry have the support, resources, and financial literacy to prosper, we will not only be boosting individual women, we will be boosting an entire economy and will be boosting Mongolia overall.

This is just one example where uplifting women can benefit an entire industry, a society, and a national prosperity, which, in turn, fosters democratic stability. As Lois has said, when women succeed, the world succeeds, so I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Women and girls around the world must be included in and empowered by ongoing U.S. investments in diplomacy, development, and security. The Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act requires USAID to address gender-specific challenges across the world, and it expands support for small- and medium-sized enterprises that are owned, managed, and controlled by women. It also explicitly establishes that it is our national policy to support the empowerment of women worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, which passed our committee by unanimous, bipartisan voice vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE and my friend from Florida, Congresswoman FRANKEL, for bringing forward this important bipartisan bill.

All countries of the world stand to benefit from the increased participation of women in their economies and in their societies at large.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "aye," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5480, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EAST ROSEBUD WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4645) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4645

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) East Rosebud Creek is cherished by the people of Montana and visitors from across the United States for its clean water, spectacular natural setting, and outstanding recreational opportunities;

(2) recreational activities, including fishing, hunting, camping, paddling, hiking, rock climbing, and wildlife watching, on East Rosebud Creek and the surrounding land generate millions of dollars annually for the local economy;

(3) East Rosebud Creek—

(A) is a national treasure;

(B) possesses outstandingly remarkable values; and

(C) merits the high level of protection afforded by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) in order to maintain the benefits provided by the Creek, as described in paragraphs (1) and (2), for future generations to enjoy; and

(4) designation of select public land segments of East Rosebud Creek under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) would recognize the importance of maintaining the values of the Creek while preserving public access, respecting private property rights, allowing appropriate maintenance of existing infrastructure, and allowing historical uses of the Creek to continue.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to designate East Rosebud Creek in the State of Montana as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to preserve and protect for present and future generations the outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, and geologic values of the Creek.

#### SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENTS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(213) EAST ROSEBUD CREEK, MONTANA.—The portions of East Rosebud Creek in the State of Montana, consisting of—

"(A) the 13-mile segment exclusively on public land within the Custer National Forest from the source in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness downstream to the point at which the Creek enters East Rosebud Lake, including the stream reach between Twin Outlets Lake and Fossil Lake, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a wild river; and

"(B) the 7-mile segment exclusively on public land within the Custer National Forest from immediately below, but not including, the outlet of East Rosebud Lake downstream to the point at which the Creek enters private property for the first time, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture as a recreational river."

(b) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in paragraph (213) of section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as added by subsection (a)) creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone outside the designated boundary of the river segment designated by that paragraph.

(2) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—The fact that an otherwise authorized activity or use can be seen or heard within the boundary of the river segment designated by paragraph (213) of section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as added by subsection (a)) shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the river segment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, East Rosebud Creek is located in Carbon County, Montana, just north of Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in the Custer National Forest.

The bill before us designates a 13-mile segment of East Rosebud Creek, beginning at its source, the East Rosebud Lake, as a wild and scenic river. A second 7-mile segment from the outlet of East Rosebud Lake to the point where the waterway enters private property would be designated as a recreational river.

This legislation specifically applies only to the segments of the creek that lie within public lands. Important historical uses outside of the wild and scenic boundary are protected by this bill.

Finally, H.R. 4645 explicitly prevents the creation of a buffer zone to restrict land use outside of the designated area.

This legislation is the result of a compromise supported by a diverse coalition that includes local ranchers, sportsmen, conservationists, and business owners. Companion legislation has been introduced with the support of both Montana Senators.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill designates a 13-mile segment of East Rosebud Creek in the Custer National Forest as a wild river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

This segment was nominated for designation in 1989, so 30 years later it finally comes to Congress, and we are moving forward with the recognition and protection it deserves.

The bill contributes to a proud legacy of preserving free and flowing rivers for future generations, and I want to extend my congratulations to the sponsor of the legislation and the entire Montana delegation for their fine work.

I know there are several bills that have been introduced by Democrats that seek to designate wild and scenic rivers in their districts. I hope we can move those along as well by working together to make sure these places also receive the appropriate attention as this particular one did.

For now, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to