

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 382

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

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

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

16 (3) One hundred years after the swearing-in of
17 Jeannette Rankin, 109 women serve in the 115th
18 Congress, more than at any other time in our Na-
19 tion’s history. While this improvement is commend-
20 able, women hold only 20 percent of the seats in
21 Congress, far below their relative share of the Amer-
22 ican electorate.

23 (4) According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Sta-
24 tistics, women make up 47 percent of the total U.S.
25 workforce. Gains have been made in the science,
26 technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)

1 fields over time, but women still comprise only 39
2 percent of chemists and material scientists, 28 per-
3 cent of environmental scientists and geoscientists, 16
4 percent of chemical engineers, and 12 percent of
5 civil engineers.

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

8 **SEC. 3. JEANNETTE RANKIN WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN**
9 **STEM FIELDS PROGRAM.**

10 Paragraph (7) of section 1672(d) of the Food, Agri-
11 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
12 5925(d)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

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

- 1 and designated as a ‘Jeannette Rankin Women and
- 2 Minorities in STEM Fields Program Grant’.”.

Passed the House of Representatives March 20,
2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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