

WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ACT

DECEMBER 1, 2021.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GRIJALVA, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 3531]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3531) to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 3531 is to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION ¹

During World War II, women filled thousands of jobs across the country that were historically filled by men in order to allow more men to go off to war to fight for our country. As a result, the female percentage of the U.S. workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent between 1940 and 1945, with nearly one out of four married women working outside the home by 1945.² Women worked on farms and in defense plants, fixed cars, flew military aircraft, and filled thousands of other jobs previously held by men. According to the National World War II Museum, “[n]early 350,000 American women served in uniform, both at home and abroad, vol-

¹Also see H.R. Rep. No. 116-470, at 2-3 (2020), <https://www.congress.gov/116/crpt/hrpt470/CRPT-116hrpt470.pdf>—of which the above text is largely reproduced.

²*The Role of Women*, NAT’L MEM’L TO THE WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT FOUND., <https://www.whfnmf.org/projects> (last visited Nov. 30, 2021).

unteering for the newly formed Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs, later renamed the Women’s Army Corps), the Navy Women’s Reserve (WAVES), the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve, the Coast Guard Women’s Reserve (SPARS), the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS), the Army Nurses Corps, and the Navy Nurse Corps. General Eisenhower felt that he could not win the war without the aid of the women in uniform.”³

At the end of the war, many of these women were forced out of their jobs as men returned home. As the National World War II Museum puts it, “[t]he nation that needed their help in a time of crisis, it seems, was not yet ready for the greater social equality that would slowly come in the decades to follow.”⁴

H.R. 3531 would authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the commitment and service of the nearly 350,000 American women who worked on the home front during World War II. The legislation stipulates that the work would be established in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act and without the use of federal funds. The Women Who Worked on the Home Front Commemorative Work was conceived of by District of Columbia resident Raya Kenney when she was in fifth grade.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 3531 was introduced on May 25, 2021, by Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D–DC). The bill was referred solely to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. On October 14, 2021, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On November 17, 2021, the Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered. The bill was adopted and ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House Rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing by the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held on October 14, 2021.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

³*History at a Glance: Women in World War II*, THE NAT’L WWII MUSEUM, <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/students-teachers/student-resources/research-starters/women-wwii> (last visited Nov. 30, 2021).

⁴*Id.*

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) and (3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and sections 308(a) and 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has been informed by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office that the bill, as noticed for consideration under suspension of the rules, will have no effect on revenues and will reduce direct spending by less than \$500,000.⁵

The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a statement as to whether this bill contains any new budget authority, spending authority, or credit authority. The Committee adopts as its own cost estimate the cost estimate of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office and any updates thereto, should any updates be made available before House passage of the bill.

The Committee notes that CBO's analysis of H.R. 5068 (116th), the version of the legislation from the 116th Congress, is available and shows the bill as having a negligible effect on direct spending and no effect on revenues.⁶

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goals and objectives of this bill are to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the *Congressional Record* upon its receipt by the Committee.

The Committee notes that CBO's analysis of H.R. 5068 (116th), the version of the legislation from the 116th Congress, is available and shows the bill as not creating any mandates for purposes of UMRA.⁷

EXISTING PROGRAMS

This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program.

⁵ CBO, LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES 2 (Nov. 29, 2021), https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2021-11/suspensions_week_of_November_29_0.pdf.

⁶ <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2020-06/hr5068.pdf>.

⁷ *Id.*

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill's purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes to existing law.

SUPPLEMENTAL, MINORITY, ADDITIONAL, OR DISSENTING VIEWS

None.