



1. [H.R. 4533 – To designate the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, Kentucky, as the “Lexington VA Health Care System” and to make certain other designations](#)
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H.R. 4533 – To designate the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, Kentucky, as the “Lexington VA Health Care System” and to make certain other designations (Rep. Barr, R-KY)

CONTACT: [Amanda Lincoln](#), 202-226-2076

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4533](#) would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, KY, as the “Lexington VA Health Care System,” designate the VA health care facility located at 1101 Veterans Drive in Lexington, KY as the “Troy E. Bowling Campus,” and designate the VA health care facility located at 2250 Leeston Road in Lexington, KY as the “Franklin R. Sousley Campus.”

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score is available. Rule 28 (a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4533 would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, KY, as the “Lexington VA Health Care System,” designate the VA health care facility located at 1101 Veterans Drive in Lexington, KY as the “Troy E. Bowling Campus,” and designate the VA health care facility located at 2250 Leeston Road in Lexington, KY as the “Franklin R. Sousley Campus.” According to the bill’s findings, Troy Bowling served in the U.S. Marine Corps between the ages of 17 and 90 and devoted more than 78,000 hours of volunteer service at the Lexington VA Medical Center, and Franklin Sousey served in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he fought in the battle of Iwo Jima and raised the United States flag atop Mount Suribachi, which was captured in an [iconic photograph](#). He was killed in combat by a Japanese sniper in 1945.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Barr (R-KY) on December 4, 2017, and referred to the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. No further Committee action has occurred.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution. No specific enumerating clause was identified.

H.R. 3542 — Hamas Human Shields Prevention Act (Rep. Wilson, R-SC)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3542](#) would impose sanctions against [Hamas](#) for acts of terrorism and gross human rights violations including the use of human shields.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that administering the sanctions in H.R. 3542 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2022 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3542 would not significantly affect net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 3542 would issue a statement of policy that it shall be the policy of the United States to officially and publicly condemn Hamas for violating the international law of armed conflict by exploiting civilians, civilian property, and other specially protected personnel and facilities, in an effort to shield military targets from lawful attack; and take effective action against those knowingly engaging in, supporting, facilitating, or enabling such undisputed violations of international law through the use of human shields.

The bill would encourage the President to direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations Security Council to secure support for a resolution that would impose multilateral sanctions against Hamas for the use of human shields; require member nations to take specific steps to prevent the use of human shields and impose consequences on those who use human shields; require the United Nations to track and report the use of human shields in any conflict monitored by an organization or agency of the United Nations; and specify steps to prevent, and consequences for, the use of United Nations employees as human shields or the use of United Nations facilities or infrastructure to enable the use of civilians as human shields.

H.R. 3542 would impose sanctions on members of Hamas and those that knowingly order, control, or are complicit in, any unlawful attempt to use civilians, civilian property, or other protected persons to shields military objectives from lawful attack. The President may impose sanctions on such foreign person, or each agency or instrumentality of a foreign state. The President would additionally be required to submit a list of such persons to Congress. An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is a foreign person on the list would be inadmissible to the United States; ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States. Any current visa issued to such persons would be revoked and such alien would be denied entry into the United States. An exception would be granted to comply with the United Nations

Headquarters Agreement. The President may, on a case-by-case basis, waive the application of a sanction with respect to a person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state for periods not longer than 180 days if the President certifies to Congress that such waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

OUTSIDE GROUPS IN SUPPORT:

- [AIPAC](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League](#)
- [Republican Jewish Coalition](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3542 was introduced on July 28, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On [November 15, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: “Congress has the power has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States of America.” No specific enumerating power was cited.

H. Res. 129 — Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States (Rep. Johnson, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Res. 129](#) would call on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Res. 129 would call upon the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#) and other elements of the Department of Defense, other appropriate elements of the Federal Government, and all foreign governments to resolutely continue efforts to investigate, recover, identify, and account as fully as possible for all United States personnel designated as unaccounted-for from past wars and conflicts around the world; and would call upon all foreign governments with information on United States personnel designated as unaccounted-for from past wars and conflicts, or with such personnel within their territories, to cooperate fully with the Government of the United States to provide the fullest possible accounting for those American lives.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Res. 129 was introduced on February 15, 2017, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Armed Services Committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No Constitutional Authority is available.

H.R. 4376 — Department of Energy Research Infrastructure Act, as amended (Rep. Knight, R-CA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4376](#) would authorize the appropriation of funds to carry out certain upgrades to Department of Energy research equipment and the construction of a research user facility.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that if the authorized amounts are appropriated, implementing H.R. 4376 would cost \$836 million over the 2018-2022 period and \$194 million after 2022.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would authorize appropriations for projects that are already under construction or in the design phase.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4376 would direct the Department of Energy to provide for the upgrade to the [Advanced Light Source, which is described by the Department of Energy as](#) “one of the world's brightest sources of high-quality, reliable vacuum-ultraviolet light and soft X-rays” located at the [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#) in California. The upgrade would include the development of a multi-bend achromat lattice to produce a high flux of coherent x-rays within the soft x-ray energy region. The Secretary of Energy would, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the start of full operations of the upgrade occurs before December 31, 2026. The bill would authorize a total of \$310,000,000 for the project from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2024. (\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$52,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2024).

The bill would provide for the upgrade to the [Linac Coherent Light Source II](#) facility, located in California including the development of experimental capabilities for high energy x-rays. The Secretary of Energy would, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the start of full operations of the upgrade occurs before December 31, 2025. The bill would authorize a total of \$320,000,000 for the project from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2023. (\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; and \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2023).

The Department of Energy would be directed to provide for and construct a Facility for Rare Isotope Beams to advance the understanding of rare nuclear isotopes and the evolution of the cosmos, and ensure that the start of full operations of the facility occurs before June 30, 2022, with early operation in 2018. The bill would authorize a total of \$341,500,000 for the project from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2024. (\$101,200,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$86,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$36,300,000 for fiscal

year 2021; \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024).

The bill provides that no additional funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out the bill and the bill shall be carried out using amounts available for such purposes.

According to [CBO](#), “Under current law, DOE’s Office of Science supports basic research in the physical sciences and operates a system of national scientific user facilities. The office received an appropriation of \$5.4 billion in 2017 and the same amount on an annualized basis for 2018; that amount includes funding for construction and upgrades of equipment and research facilities. Under current law, no specific sums are authorized to be appropriated to DOE for those purposes after 2018... the upgrade of the Advanced Light Source is in the design phase, and the upgrade of the Linac Coherent Light Source II and construction of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams are nearing completion. In 2017, the agency spent \$300 million for those two projects.”

More information on the projects can be found [here](#) from the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee’s June 9, 2016 report on facility upgrades.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4376 was introduced on November 13, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. On [November 15, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: “Congress has the power has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

H.R. 4377 — Accelerating American Leadership in Science Act, as amended (Rep. Hultgren, R-MI)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4377](#) would authorize the appropriation of funds to carry out construction and certain upgrades to Department of Energy (DOE) research equipment and facilities under the department's Office of Science.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that if the authorized amounts are appropriated, implementing H.R. 4377 would cost \$1.5 billion over the 2018-2022 period and \$2.2 billion after 2022.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would authorize appropriations for projects that are already under construction or in the design phase.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4377 would direct the Department of Energy to provide for the upgrade to the [Advanced Photon Source](#), at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, including the development of a multi-bend achromat lattice to produce a high flux of coherent x-rays within the hard x-ray energy region and a suite of beamlines optimized for this source. The Secretary of Energy would, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the start of full operations of the upgrade occurs before December 31, 2025. The bill would authorize a total of \$619,000,000 for the project. (\$93,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$130,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$152,400,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$73,600,000 for fiscal year 2022; and \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2023).

The bill would direct the Department of Energy to provide for the construction of a [Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility](#) in South Dakota, to facilitate the international Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment to enable a program in neutrino physics to measure the fundamental properties of neutrinos, explore physics beyond the Standard Model, and better clarify the nature of matter and antimatter. The Secretary of Energy would, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the start of full operations occurs before December 31, 2026. The bill would authorize \$1.44 billion for the construction of the facility. (\$95,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$160,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$195,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$195,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; \$195,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026).

The bill would direct the Department of Energy to provide for a proton power upgrade to the [Spallation Neutron Source](#) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, in Tennessee. The Secretary of Energy would, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the start of full operations of the upgrade occurs before December 31, 2025. The bill would authorize a total of \$208,000,000 for the project. (\$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$70,800,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$33,500,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$40,500,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$21,100,000 for fiscal year 2022; \$13,200,000 for fiscal year 2023; and \$2,900,000 for fiscal year 2024).

The bill would direct the Department of Energy to provide for the construction of a [second target station for the Spallation Neutron Source](#) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, in Tennessee. The Secretary of Energy would, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the start of full operations of the second target station occurs before December 31, 2030, with the option for early operation in 2028. The bill would authorize a total of \$1.5 billion for the project. (\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; \$275,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; \$275,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; \$275,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and \$120,000,000 for fiscal year 2028).

The bill provides that no additional funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out the bill and the bill shall be carried out using amounts available for such purposes.

According to CBO, “DOE’s Office of Science supports basic research in the physical sciences and operates a system of national scientific user facilities. The office received an appropriation of \$5.4 billion in 2017 and the same amount on an annualized basis for 2018; that amount includes funding for construction of and upgrades to equipment and research facilities. Under current law, no specific sums are authorized to be appropriated to DOE for those purposes after 2018... In 2017, DOE spent \$37 million for construction of the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility. According to the agency, the upgrades to the Advanced Photon Source and Spallation Neutron Source are in the design phase. In recent years, the agency received appropriations of \$40 million a year for those projects.”

More information on the projects can be found [here](#) from the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee’s June 9, 2016 report on facility upgrades.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4377 was introduced on November 13, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. On [November 15, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

H.R. 4378 — Nuclear Energy Research Infrastructure Act, as amended (Rep. Weber, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4378](#) would authorize the appropriation of funds to carry out the construction of a test reactor, or [versatile fast neutron source](#) for the Department of Energy.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing the bill would cost nearly \$2 billion over the 2018-2027 period. Enacting H.R. 4378 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4378 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would require the DOE to establish a test reactor that the agency is currently assessing the need for and has not begun construction.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4378 would direct the Department of Energy to provide for a versatile reactor-based fast neutron source, which would operate as a national user facility. The Secretary of Energy would consult with the private sector, universities, National Laboratories, and relevant Federal agencies to ensure that the versatile neutron source is capable of meeting Federal research needs for neutron irradiation services. The Secretary of Energy would, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the start of full operations of the facility occurs before December 31, 2025. The bill would authorize a total of \$1.985 billion for the project. (\$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; \$260,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; \$340,000,000 for fiscal year 2022; \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2025).

The bill provides that no additional funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out the bill and the bill shall be carried out using amounts available for such purposes.

According to [CBO](#), “the agency is currently assessing the need for a test reactor similar to the one envisioned under H.R. 4378, the costs of which are uncertain.”

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4378 was introduced on November 13, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. On [November 15, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

H.R. 4675 — Low Dose Radiation Research Act, as amended (Rep. Marshall, R-KS)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4675](#) would authorize funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Science to conduct a basic research program on low dose radiation.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4675 would cost \$96 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4675 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would authorize funding for a radiation research program that would be similar to a program that was terminated in 2016.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4675 would authorize funding for DOE's Office of Science to carry out a basic research program on low-dose radiation to enhance the scientific understanding of, and reduce uncertainties associated with, the effects of exposure to low-dose radiation; and inform improved risk-assessment and risk-management methods with respect to such radiation. Not later than 180 days after the bill's enactment, the department would be required to submit a 4-year research plan that identifies and prioritizes basic research needs relating to low-dose radiation to Congress. The bill would authorize a total of \$100,000,000 provided to the Biological and Environmental Research Program. (\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2021).

The bill provides that no additional funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out the bill and the bill shall be carried out using amounts available for such purposes.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4675 was introduced on December 18, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. On [January 10, 2018](#), the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

H.R. 3397 — Building Blocks of STEM Act, as amended (Rep. Rosen, D-NV)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3397](#) would direct the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations to accelerate research efforts to increase understanding of the factors that contribute to the participation of young girls in STEM activities.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that the NSF has spent around \$155 million annually on grant programs similar to the requirements in H.R. 3397. Considering information from NSF, CBO expects that the agency could meet the bill's requirements by continuing to operate those existing programs. Enacting H.R. 3397 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3397 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 3397 would direct the NSF to award grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations or nonprofit organizations to accelerate research efforts to increase understanding of the factors that contribute to the participation of young girls in STEM activities. Research areas funded by a grant may include: the role of teacher training and professional development, including effective incentive structures to encourage teachers to participate in such training and professional development, in encouraging or discouraging young girls from participating in STEM activities; the role of teachers in shaping young girls' perceptions of STEM and discouraging such girls from participating in STEM activities; the role of other facets of the learning environment on the willingness of young girls to participate in STEM activities, including learning materials and textbooks, classroom decorations, seating arrangements, use of media and technology, classroom culture, and gender composition of students during group work; the role of parents and other caregivers in encouraging or discouraging young girls from participating in STEM activities; the types of STEM activities that elicit greater participation by young girls; the role of mentorship and best practices in finding and utilizing mentors; and the role of informal and out-of-school STEM learning opportunities on girls' perception of and participation in STEM activities.

The NSF would be directed to award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations, to develop and evaluate interventions in pre-K and elementary school classrooms that increase participation of young girls in computer science activities. The awarded grants would be used for activities that draw upon the expertise of the partner entities to increase participation of young girls in computer science activities.

The bill would require the NSF to evaluate the grant program not later than 4 years after the bill's enactment and would be required to submit the results to Congress.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3397 was introduced on July 25, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. On [November 15, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by voice vote

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clause 8 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution."

H.R. 4979 — To extend the Generalized System of Preferences and to make technical changes to the competitive need limitations provision of the program (Rep. Reichert, R-WA)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on February 13, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

H.R. 4979 would extend the [Generalized System of Preferences](#) (GSP), a U.S. trade preference program that promotes sustainable development in beneficiary countries by helping these countries to increase and diversify their trade with the United States.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting H.R. 4979 would decrease revenues by \$1.443 billion, decrease direct spending by \$1.518 billion, and reduce deficits by \$75 million over the FY 2018 – 2027 period.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4979 would extend the Generalized System of Preferences to December 31, 2020. The bill would require the United States Trade Representative to submit a report to Congress on efforts to ensure that countries designated as beneficiary developing countries under [title V of the Trade Act of 1974](#) (19U.S.C. 2461 et seq.) are meeting the eligibility criteria set forth in that legislation. The bill would make several technical corrections to the procedure for competitive need limitation process set up in GSP to ensure that beneficiary countries meet eligibility requirements for the program. The bill would extend a limitation on the collection of [certain custom fees](#) to August 1, 2027.

More information on the previous extension of GSP can be found [here](#) from the RSC's legislative bulletin on H.R. 1295, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015. More information supporting the extension of GSP from the Heritage Foundation can be found [here](#).

OUTSIDE GROUPS IN SUPPORT:

- [Coalition letter in support from various chambers of commerce and industries](#)
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4979 was introduced on February 8, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, clauses 1 and 3 "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States..."; and "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes..."

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