

[H.R. 4742, Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act](#)

FLOOR SITUATION

On Tuesday, March 22, 2016, the House will consider [H.R. 4742](#), the Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act, under suspension of the rules. H.R. 4742 was introduced on March 15, 2016, by Rep. Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) and was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

SUMMARY

H.R. 4742 authorizes the National Science Foundation (NSF) to “encourage its existing entrepreneurial programs to recruit and support women to extend their focus beyond the laboratory and into the commercial world.”¹

BACKGROUND

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs are generally believed to be crucial to America’s innovative capacity and global competitiveness. Yet women are vastly underrepresented in STEM, holding less than 25 percent of the nation’s STEM jobs, despite making up nearly half of the U.S. workforce and half of the college-educated workforce.²

According to the bill sponsor, “This bill takes a bipartisan approach to tackle a very real challenge that women who are aspiring scientists and innovators face in the United States. The STEM fields play an increasingly important role in the U.S. economy, but women are still underrepresented in most STEM sectors. Making education and skills-training programs more accessible for women and other underrepresented groups is a key part of solving that problem, but it isn’t enough. This bill makes it clear that we can and should do more to support women when it comes to commercializing great ideas, starting small businesses, and creating jobs.”³

¹ See [H.R. 4742, Sec. 3](#)

² See Department of Commerce Report, [Women in STEM: A Gender Gap to Innovation](#)

³ See Rep. Elizabeth Esty Press Release, [“Esty Introduces Legislation To Connect Women With Career Opportunities In The Sciences.”](#) March 17, 2016.

COST

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is currently not available.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information please contact [John Huston](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 6-5539.