



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 23, 2018

### **H.R. 5480** **Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on April 17, 2018*

H.R. 5480 would authorize the assistance provided to microenterprises by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to be expanded to include small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), particularly those owned or managed by women. It also would require the agency to update its monitoring and reporting on that assistance. Finally, it would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report on the agency's programs for microenterprises and SMEs and require USAID to brief the Congress and report on the implementation of the bill.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 directed USAID to make available not less than \$265 million for microenterprise programs. According to USAID, many of its ongoing assistance programs in sectors such as agricultural development and health care support both microenterprises and SMEs, including those owned or managed by women. On the basis of that information, CBO expects that USAID would not increase assistance to SMEs under the bill. USAID indicated that it would need one additional employee and a contractor for up to two years to update its monitoring and reporting under the bill; on that basis, CBO estimates those efforts would cost about \$500,000 each year. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the updated monitoring and reporting and providing the required USAID and GAO reports would cost \$1 million over the 2018-2023 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 5480 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5480 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 5480 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.