



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 4, 1999

H.R. 1497

Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Small Business on September 30, 1999

SUMMARY

Women's Business Centers train and counsel women in the skills necessary to launch their own businesses. Current law authorizes appropriations of \$11 million a year for Women's Business Centers. H.R. 1497 would increase the amounts authorized for fiscal years 2000 through 2003, but would repeal the authorization for subsequent years. The bill also would establish a pilot program to provide grants to such centers beyond their initial five-year projects. The bill would clarify that Women's Business Centers must be private nonprofit organizations. Finally, H.R. 1497 would direct the Small Business Administration (SBA) to determine whether each center is programmatically and financially viable, and would allow SBA to use a small portion of the authorized amounts for administrative expenses.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that H.R. 1497 would increase net outlays by \$2 million over the 2000-2004 period, relative to the currently authorized level. H.R. 1497 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 1497 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any expenditures made by these governments to provide the nonfederal matching funds or in-kind contributions to Women's Business Centers in their jurisdictions would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1497 is shown in the following table. For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that historical spending rates for this program will continue and appropriations will be provided near the start of each fiscal year. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | |
| Spending for Women's Business Centers | | | | | |
| Under Current Law | | | | | |
| Authorization Level ^a | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Estimated Outlays | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Proposed Changes | | | | | |
| Authorization Level | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | -11 |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | -4 |
| Spending for Women's Business Centers | | | | | |
| Under H.R. 1497 | | | | | |
| Authorization Level | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 0 |
| Estimated Outlays | 10 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 7 |

a. The amounts shown reflect the amounts authorized to be appropriated under current law.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1497 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any expenditures made by these governments to provide the non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions to Women's Business Centers in their jurisdictions would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

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