

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 313

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding Government procurement access for women-owned businesses.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 1997

Mrs. KELLY (for herself and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding Government procurement access for women-owned businesses.

Whereas women-owned businesses are a powerful force in the economy;

Whereas between 1987 and 1996—

(1) the number of women-owned businesses increased by 78 percent, almost twice the rate of increase of all firms in the United States;

(2) the number of women-owned businesses increased in every State;

(3) total sales by women-owned businesses increased by 236 percent;

(4) employment provided by women-owned business increased by 183 percent; and

(5) the rates of growth for women-owned businesses for the fastest growing industries were as follows:

(A) 171 percent in construction;

(B) 157 percent in wholesale trade;

(C) 140 percent in transportation and communications;

(D) 130 percent in agriculture; and

(E) 112 percent in manufacturing;

Whereas approximately 8,000,000 women-owned businesses provide jobs for 15,500,000 people and generate almost \$1,400,000,000,000 in sales;

Whereas women-owned businesses experience limited access to the Federal Government procurement market;

Whereas the Federal Government is America's largest purchaser of goods and services, spending more than \$225,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas the majority of Federal Government purchases are for items that cost \$5,000 or less;

Whereas Congress set a 5 percent procurement goal for women-owned businesses in the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994; and

Whereas the rate of procurement for women-owned businesses is 1.8 percent: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, that it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2        resentatives that all Federal agencies would benefit from  
3        reviewing the following recommendations for the purpose  
4        of improving equitable access for women-owned businesses  
5        to the Federal procurement market:

6            (1) Agencies should offer and make readily  
7            available to women-owned businesses information re-  
8            garding access to contracting practices and opportu-  
9            nities.

10           (2) Agencies should identify women-owned busi-  
11           ness advocates within their respective agency to  
12           guarantee that women-owned businesses are ade-  
13           quately represented in competitive bid solicitations.

14           (3) Agencies should review the various women-  
15           owned business certifications that currently exist in  
16           an attempt to develop a common certification stand-  
17           ard.

18           (4) Agencies should, if possible, announce elec-  
19           tronically any available procurement opportunities.

20           (5) Agencies should consider internal mentor  
21           programs as a means of teaching new business con-  
22           tracting practices.

23           (6) Agencies should consider adopting a “Rule  
24           of One” approach for women-owned businesses

1       whereby at least one women-owned business is solie-  
2       ited on all competitive acquisitions.

3               (7) Agencies should explore alternative ways to  
4       allow women-owned businesses to compete, including  
5       the concepts of teaming and partnering.

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