

November 10, 2018

The Honorable Bob Corker  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
SD-425  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Corker and Ranking Member Menendez:

As a U.S. citizen, a female entrepreneur and a global citizen, *thank you* for supporting the **Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018 (H.R. 5480)**. There are three reasons, I strongly encourage you to pass this bill.

### 1. Because We Are Humanitarians

- Over 126 million women and girls, the equivalent of 38 percent of the U.S. population, are “missing” globally<sup>1</sup> killed by infanticide and abortion due to cultural preferences for males.
- One in three women will experience gender-based violence (GBV).<sup>2</sup>
- Women and girls in developing countries receive less nutrition, health care and education than men and boys.

### 2. Increasing Peace and Security

- The major causes of violent conflict include “political, economic, and social inequalities; extreme poverty; economic stagnation; poor government services; high unemployment; environmental degradation; and individual (economic) incentives to fight.”<sup>3</sup> We know that “promoting inclusive development and reducing inequalities reduces the likelihood of war.”<sup>4</sup> When women are empowered and prosper, it contributes to them, to their families, to communities and regions prospering. This contributes to increased stability, peace, new markets, trade and strengthens global value chains.



### 3. Because Advocates Like You Made My Life and Business Possible

- I founded my leadership development consultancy, Leadership Hand LLC, 17 years ago. I've earned an M.B.A. I own a home and have credit. This week I voted. There are U.S. laws that give me rights. Challenges for women in the U.S. and around the world inspired me to write a book, *Hidden by Gender*, to help women level the playing field. People like you with the power to influence, who understand the importance of women both in and to society, made my life today possible. I'm grateful.

Because of my commitment to a more peaceful, prosperous world, I have shifted my consultancy's focus from Fortune 500 and mid-size companies to include working with mission-driven, innovative leaders in the development sector focused on women, girls and peace.

Please pass this bill.

Your commitment in passing it, USAID's, the development community's and mine, will make a difference for women and girls, men and boys in developing countries. It will make a difference for a more peaceful, prosperous world for everyone. That's a legacy with which we can all live.

Sincerely,

Beth Hand  
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Leadership Hand LLC  
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703.820.8018

cc: Jim Risch  
Marco Rubio  
Ron Johnson  
Jeff Flake  
Cory Gardner  
Todd Young

John Barrasso  
Johnny Isakson



Rob Portman  
Rand Paul  
Ben Cardin  
Jeanne Shaheen  
Chris Coons  
Tom Udall  
Chris Murphy  
Tim Kaine  
Ed Markey  
Jeff Merkley  
Cory Booker  
Mark Warner

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Population Fund: Gender-biased Sex Selection. <https://www.unfpa.org/gender-biased-sex-selection>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State. <https://2009-2017.state.gov/s/gwi/programs/policy/gbv/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Biotechnology Information: Root causes of violent conflict in developing countries. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1122271/>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.