



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 28, 2006

H.R. 5037 **Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act**

As introduced on March 29, 2006

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5037 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would be insignificant. H.R. 5037 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. H.R. 5037 contains a private-sector mandate, but that mandate does not entail any direct costs.

H.R. 5037 would prohibit unauthorized demonstrations at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) or on the property of cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). The bill would completely prohibit disruptive demonstrations at ANC or NCA cemeteries within an hour before or after a funeral or memorial service.

H.R. 5037 also would subject any individuals found to be in violation of these prohibitions to possible fines or imprisonment. Thus, the government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise may not be able to prosecute. However, we expect that H.R. 5037 would apply to a relatively small number of additional offenders, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant and would be subject to availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 5037 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Dwayne M. Wright. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.