



AWBC Statement on the Passage of The Women's Small Business Ownership Act (S. 2126)

On Wednesday, the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee passed the Women's Small Business Ownership Act of 2015 (S. 2126), landmark legislation to strengthen the Women's Business Center program.

For the past 27 years, the national network of over 100 Women's Business Centers (WBCs) has been on the frontlines of training, counseling and providing a pathway to capital - strengthening the ability of nearly two million women entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses. Demand for WBCs' services continues to grow as a result of the explosion of women entrepreneurs, which now total nearly 10 million.

This legislation elevates Congressional support for women entrepreneurs. While the current network of WBCs provide tremendous support to women who want to start and grow businesses, they are just scratching the surface of the assistance needed. This important legislation provides greater resources to WBCs to reach more women – anticipating the growing impact of the program due to the continued surge of women business owners.

We are grateful to Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chair David Vitter (R-LA) and Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) for sponsoring this critical legislation. We thank all of the members of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship for their unanimous support.

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