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Key Women's Business Legislation Passes House Committee

Bill would authorize more than \$21 million for training and counseling of women entrepreneurs

Washington, D.C. – Today, the House Armed Services Committee passed H.R. 2810, the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which includes legislation re-authorizing the Women's Business Center (WBC) program. The bill would authorize additional funding, reduce burdensome reporting requirements, and ensure women entrepreneurs have access to the training and counseling that can help start and grow businesses.

"This is an important step in advancing legislation to help entrepreneurs nationwide," said Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC) President and CEO Antonella Pianalto. "We are grateful to Chairman Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Ranking Member Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) as well as Representatives Steve Knight (R-CA) and Al Lawson (D-FL) for advancing legislation that modernizes a proven government partnership. With these changes, women's business centers will continue to be an effective and efficient resource for one of fastest growing sectors of the economy: women entrepreneurs."

The Women's Business Center program is a public-private partnership with more than 25 years of success in providing training, counseling, mentoring, and access to capital for women entrepreneurs across the country. Its network reaches into communities – urban and rural alike – to assist America's job creators in launching and growing their own business.

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About AWBC: The AWBC (www.awbc.org) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1998 to support the national network of Women's Business Centers (WBCs) with programming and advocacy. Each year, our members leverage WBC grants to operate more than 150 locations throughout the United States. WBCs have more than 25 years of success in providing business training, counseling, mentoring, and access to capital to women entrepreneurs. The WBC program is a public-private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.