

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To reauthorize the women’s business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. CANTWELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A BILL**

To reauthorize the women’s business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Women’s Small Busi-  
5 ness Ownership Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the terms “Administration” and “Adminis-  
9 trator” mean the Small Business Administration  
10 and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

1           (2) the term “disability” has the meaning given  
2 that term in section 3 of the Americans with Dis-  
3 abilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102);

4           (3) the term “microloan program” means the  
5 program established under section 7(m) of the Small  
6 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m));

7           (4) the term “rural small business concern”  
8 means a small business concern located in a rural  
9 area, as that term is defined in section 1393(a)(2)  
10 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

11           (5) the terms “small business concern”, “small  
12 business concern owned and controlled by veterans”,  
13 and “small business concern owned and controlled  
14 by women” have the meanings given those terms  
15 under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15  
16 U.S.C. 632).

17 **SEC. 3. OFFICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.**

18           Section 29(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
19 656(g)) is amended—

20           (1) in paragraph (2)—

21           (A) in subparagraph (B)—

22           (i) in clause (i), by striking “in the  
23 areas” and all that follows through the end  
24 of subclause (I), and inserting the fol-  
25 lowing: “to address issues concerning the

1 management, operations, manufacturing,  
2 technology, finance, retail and product  
3 sales, international trade, Government con-  
4 tracting, and other disciplines required  
5 for—

6 “(I) starting, operating, and in-  
7 creasing the business of a small busi-  
8 ness concern;” and

9 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “Wom-  
10 en’s Business Center program” each place  
11 that term appears and inserting “women’s  
12 business center program”; and

13 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting be-  
14 fore the period at the end the following: “, the  
15 National Women’s Business Council, and any  
16 association of women’s business centers”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) TRAINING.—The Administrator may pro-  
19 vide annual programmatic and financial examination  
20 training for women’s business ownership representa-  
21 tives and district office technical representatives of  
22 the Administration to enable representatives to carry  
23 out their responsibilities.

24 “(4) PROGRAM AND TRANSPARENCY IMPROVE-  
25 MENTS.—The Administrator shall maximize the

1 transparency of the women’s business center finan-  
2 cial assistance proposal process and the pro-  
3 grammatic and financial examination process by—

4 “(A) providing public notice of any an-  
5 nouncement for financial assistance under sub-  
6 section (b) or a grant under subsection (l);

7 “(B) in the announcement described in  
8 subparagraph (A), outlining award and pro-  
9 gram evaluation criteria and describing the  
10 weighting of the criteria for financial assistance  
11 under subsection (b) and grants under sub-  
12 section (l); and

13 “(C) not later than 60 days after the com-  
14 pletion of a site visit to the women’s business  
15 center (whether conducted for an audit, per-  
16 formance review, or other reason), when fea-  
17 sible, providing to each women’s business center  
18 a copy of any site visit reports or evaluation re-  
19 ports prepared by district office technical rep-  
20 resentatives or officers or employees of the Ad-  
21 ministration.”.

22 **SEC. 4. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

23 (a) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER FINANCIAL ASSIST-  
24 ANCE.—Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
25 656) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by striking paragraph (4);

3 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and  
4 (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the  
6 following:

7 “(2) the term ‘association of women’s business  
8 centers’ means an organization—

9 “(A) that represents not less than 51 per-  
10 cent of the women’s business centers that par-  
11 ticipate in a program under this section; and

12 “(B) whose primary purpose is to rep-  
13 resent women’s business centers;

14 “(3) the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

15 “(A) a private nonprofit organization;

16 “(B) a State, regional, or local economic  
17 development organization;

18 “(C) a development, credit, or finance cor-  
19 poration chartered by a State;

20 “(D) a junior or community college, as de-  
21 fined in section 312(f) of the Higher Education  
22 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)); or

23 “(E) any combination of entities listed in  
24 subparagraphs (A) through (D);” and

1 (D) by adding after paragraph (5), as so  
2 redesignated, the following:

3 “(6) the term ‘women’s business center’ means  
4 a project conducted by an eligible entity under this  
5 section.”;

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),  
8 and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C),  
9 and adjusting the margins accordingly;

10 (B) by striking “The Administration” and  
11 all that follows through “5-year projects” and  
12 inserting the following:

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration may  
14 provide financial assistance to an eligible entity to  
15 conduct a project under this section”;

16 (C) by striking “The projects shall” and  
17 inserting the following:

18 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The project shall be de-  
19 signed to provide training and counseling that meets  
20 the needs of women, especially socially and economi-  
21 cally disadvantaged women, and shall”; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(3) AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—  
24 The Administrator may award financial assistance

1 under this subsection of not more than \$250,000 per  
2 project year.

3 “(4) CONSULTATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS OF  
4 WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS.—The Administrator  
5 shall seek advice, input, and recommendations for  
6 policy changes from any association of women’s busi-  
7 ness centers to develop—

8 “(A) a training program for the staff of  
9 women’s business centers; and

10 “(B) recommendations to improve the poli-  
11 cies and procedures for governing the general  
12 operations and administration of the women’s  
13 business center program, including grant pro-  
14 gram improvements under subsection (g)(4).”;

15 (3) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “the re-  
17 cipient organization” and inserting “an eligible  
18 entity”;

19 (B) in paragraph (3), in the second sen-  
20 tence, by striking “a recipient organization”  
21 and inserting “an eligible entity”;

22 (C) in paragraph (4)—

23 (i) by striking “recipient of assist-  
24 ance” and inserting “eligible entity”;

1 (ii) by striking “such organization”  
2 and inserting “the eligible entity”; and

3 (iii) by striking “recipient” and in-  
4 sserting “eligible entity”; and

5 (D) by adding at end the following:

6 “(5) SEPARATION OF PROJECT AND FUNDS.—

7 An eligible entity shall—

8 “(A) carry out a project under this section  
9 separately from other projects, if any, of the eli-  
10 gible entity; and

11 “(B) separately maintain and account for  
12 any financial assistance under this section.”;

13 (4) in subsection (e)—

14 (A) by striking “applicant organization”  
15 and inserting “eligible entity”;

16 (B) by striking “a recipient organization”  
17 and inserting “an eligible entity”; and

18 (C) by striking “site”;

19 (5) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the  
20 following:

21 “(f) APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR INITIAL FI-  
22 NANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

23 “(1) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desir-  
24 ing financial assistance under subsection (b) shall



1 submit to the Administrator an application that con-  
2 tains—

3 “(A) a certification that the eligible enti-  
4 ty—

5 “(i) has designated an executive direc-  
6 tor or program manager, who may be com-  
7 pensated using financial assistance under  
8 subsection (b) or other sources, to manage  
9 the center;

10 “(ii) as a condition of receiving finan-  
11 cial assistance under subsection (b),  
12 agrees—

13 “(I) to receive a site visit at the  
14 discretion of the Administrator as  
15 part of the final selection process;

16 “(II) to undergo an annual pro-  
17 grammatic and financial examination;  
18 and

19 “(III) to remedy any problems  
20 identified pursuant to the site visit or  
21 examination under subclause (I) or  
22 (II); and

23 “(iii) meets the accounting and re-  
24 porting requirements established by the

1 Director of the Office of Management and  
2 Budget;

3 “(B) information demonstrating that the  
4 eligible entity has the ability and resources to  
5 meet the needs of the market to be served by  
6 the women’s business center for which financial  
7 assistance under subsection (b) is sought, in-  
8 cluding the ability to obtain the non-Federal  
9 contribution required under subsection (c);

10 “(C) information relating to the assistance  
11 to be provided by the women’s business center  
12 for which financial assistance under subsection  
13 (b) is sought in the area in which the women’s  
14 business center is located;

15 “(D) information demonstrating the expe-  
16 rience and effectiveness of the eligible entity  
17 in—

18 “(i) conducting financial, manage-  
19 ment, and marketing assistance programs,  
20 as described in subsection (b)(2), which  
21 are designed to teach or upgrade the busi-  
22 ness skills of women who are business own-  
23 ers or potential business owners;

24 “(ii) providing training and services to  
25 a representative number of women who are

1 socially and economically disadvantaged;  
2 and

3 “(iii) working with resource partners  
4 of the Administration and other entities,  
5 such as universities; and

6 “(E) a 5-year plan that describes the abil-  
7 ity of the women’s business center for which fi-  
8 nancial assistance is sought—

9 “(i) to serve women who are business  
10 owners or potential business owners by  
11 conducting training and counseling activi-  
12 ties; and

13 “(ii) to provide training and services  
14 to a representative number of women who  
15 are socially and economically disadvan-  
16 tagged.

17 “(2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS  
18 FOR INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
20 shall—

21 “(i) review each application submitted  
22 under paragraph (1), based on the infor-  
23 mation described in such paragraph and  
24 the criteria set forth under subparagraph  
25 (B) of this paragraph; and

1           “(ii) to the extent practicable, as part  
2 of the final selection process, conduct a  
3 site visit to each women’s business center  
4 for which financial assistance under sub-  
5 section (b) is sought.

6           “(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

7           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
8 shall evaluate applicants for financial as-  
9 sistance under subsection (b) in accordance  
10 with selection criteria that are—

11           “(I) established before the date  
12 on which applicants are required to  
13 submit the applications;

14           “(II) stated in terms of relative  
15 importance; and

16           “(III) publicly available and stat-  
17 ed in each solicitation for applications  
18 for financial assistance under sub-  
19 section (b) made by the Adminis-  
20 trator.

21           “(ii) REQUIRED CRITERIA.—The se-  
22 lection criteria for financial assistance  
23 under subsection (b) shall include—

24           “(I) the experience of the appli-  
25 cant in conducting programs or ongo-

1 ing efforts designed to teach or en-  
2 hance the business skills of women  
3 who are business owners or potential  
4 business owners;

5 “(II) the ability of the applicant  
6 to begin a project within a minimum  
7 amount of time, as established under  
8 the program announcement or by reg-  
9 ulation;

10 “(III) the ability of the applicant  
11 to provide training and services to a  
12 representative number of women who  
13 are socially and economically dis-  
14 advantaged; and

15 “(IV) the location for the wom-  
16 en’s business center proposed by the  
17 applicant, including whether the appli-  
18 cant is located in a State in which  
19 there is not a women’s business center  
20 receiving funding from the Adminis-  
21 tration.

22 “(C) PROXIMITY.—If the principal place of  
23 business of an applicant for financial assistance  
24 under subsection (b) is located less than 50  
25 miles from the principal place of business of a

1 women’s business center that received funds  
2 under this section on or before the date of the  
3 application, the applicant shall not be eligible  
4 for the financial assistance, unless the applicant  
5 submits a detailed written justification of the  
6 need for an additional center in the area in  
7 which the applicant is located.

8 “(D) RECORD RETENTION.—The Adminis-  
9 trator shall maintain a copy of each application  
10 submitted under this subsection for not less  
11 than 7 years.”; and

12 (6) in subsection (m)—

13 (A) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-  
14 ing the following:

15 “(3) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL FOR RE-  
16 NEWAL GRANTS.—

17 “(A) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—  
18 The Administrator shall solicit applications and  
19 award grants under this subsection for the first  
20 fiscal year beginning after the date of enact-  
21 ment of the Women’s Small Business Owner-  
22 ship Act of 2014, and every third fiscal year  
23 thereafter.

24 “(B) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each  
25 eligible entity desiring a grant under this sub-

1 section shall submit to the Administrator an ap-  
2 plication that contains—

3 “(i) a certification that the appli-  
4 cant—

5 “(I) is an eligible entity;

6 “(II) has designated an executive  
7 director or program manager to man-  
8 age the women’s business center oper-  
9 ated by the applicant; and

10 “(III) as a condition of receiving  
11 a grant under this subsection,  
12 agrees—

13 “(aa) to receive a site visit  
14 as part of the final selection  
15 process;

16 “(bb) to submit, for the 2  
17 full fiscal years before the date  
18 on which the application is sub-  
19 mitted, annual programmatic and  
20 financial examination reports or  
21 certified copies of the compliance  
22 supplemental audits under OMB  
23 Circular A–133 of the applicant;  
24 and

1                   “(cc) to remedy any problem  
2                   identified pursuant to the site  
3                   visit or examination under item  
4                   (aa) or (bb);

5                   “(ii) information demonstrating that  
6                   the applicant has the ability and resources  
7                   to meet the needs of the market to be  
8                   served by the women’s business center for  
9                   which a grant under this subsection is  
10                  sought, including the ability to obtain the  
11                  non-Federal contribution required under  
12                  paragraph (4)(C);

13                  “(iii) information relating to assist-  
14                  ance to be provided by the women’s busi-  
15                  ness center in the area served by the wom-  
16                  en’s business center for which a grant  
17                  under this subsection is sought;

18                  “(iv) information demonstrating that  
19                  the applicant has worked with resource  
20                  partners of the Administration and other  
21                  entities;

22                  “(v) a 3-year plan that describes the  
23                  ability of the women’s business center for  
24                  which a grant under this subsection is  
25                  sought—



1                   “(I) to serve women who are  
2                   business owners or potential business  
3                   owners by conducting training and  
4                   counseling activities; and

5                   “(II) to provide training and  
6                   services to a representative number of  
7                   women who are socially and economi-  
8                   cally disadvantaged; and

9                   “(vi) any additional information that  
10                  the Administrator may reasonably require.

11                  “(C) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICA-  
12                  TIONS FOR GRANTS.—

13                  “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
14                  shall—

15                  “(I) review each application sub-  
16                  mitted under subparagraph (B), based  
17                  on the information described in such  
18                  subparagraph and the criteria set  
19                  forth under clause (ii) of this subpara-  
20                  graph; and

21                  “(II) at the discretion of the Ad-  
22                  ministrator, and as part of the final  
23                  selection process, conduct a site visit  
24                  to each women’s business center for

1 which a grant under this subsection is  
2 sought.

3 “(ii) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

4 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Admin-  
5 istrator shall evaluate applicants for  
6 grants under this subsection in ac-  
7 cordance with selection criteria that  
8 are—

9 “(aa) established before the  
10 date on which applicants are re-  
11 quired to submit the applications;

12 “(bb) stated in terms of rel-  
13 ative importance; and

14 “(cc) publicly available and  
15 stated in each solicitation for ap-  
16 plications for grants under this  
17 subsection made by the Adminis-  
18 trator.

19 “(II) REQUIRED CRITERIA.—The  
20 selection criteria for a grant under  
21 this subsection shall include—

22 “(aa) the total number of  
23 entrepreneurs served by the ap-  
24 plicant;

1                   “(bb) the total number of  
2                   new startup companies assisted  
3                   by the applicant;

4                   “(cc) the percentage of cli-  
5                   ents of the applicant that are so-  
6                   cially or economically disadvan-  
7                   taged; and

8                   “(dd) the percentage of indi-  
9                   viduals in the community served  
10                  by the applicant who are socially  
11                  or economically disadvantaged.

12                  “(iii) CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED  
13                  FUNDING.—In determining whether to  
14                  make a grant under this subsection, the  
15                  Administrator—

16                  “(I) shall consider the results of  
17                  the most recent evaluation of the  
18                  women’s business center for which a  
19                  grant under this subsection is sought,  
20                  and, to a lesser extent, previous eval-  
21                  uations; and

22                  “(II) may withhold a grant under  
23                  this subsection, if the Administrator  
24                  determines that the applicant has  
25                  failed to provide the information re-

1                   quired to be provided under this para-  
2                   graph, or the information provided by  
3                   the applicant is inadequate.

4                   “(D) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60  
5                   days after the date of each deadline to submit  
6                   applications, the Administrator shall approve or  
7                   deny any application under this paragraph and  
8                   notify the applicant for each such application of  
9                   the approval or denial.

10                  “(E) RECORD RETENTION.—The Adminis-  
11                  trator shall maintain a copy of each application  
12                  submitted under this paragraph for not less  
13                  than 7 years.”; and

14                  (B) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-  
15                  ing the following:

16                  “(5) AWARD TO PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS.—There  
17                  shall be no limitation on the number of times the  
18                  Administrator may award a grant to an applicant  
19                  under this subsection.”.

20                  (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
21                  Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is  
22                  amended—

23                  (1) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “to award  
24                  a contract (as a sustainability grant) under sub-  
25                  section (l) or”;

1           (2) in subsection (j)(1), by striking “The Ad-  
2           ministration” and inserting “Not later than Novem-  
3           ber 1 of each year, the Administrator”;

4           (3) in subsection (k)—

5                 (A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (4);

6                 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
7           paragraph (4);

8                 (C) by inserting before paragraph (2) the  
9           following:

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
11           appropriated to the Administration to carry out this  
12           section, to remain available until expended,  
13           \$26,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through  
14           2019.”; and

15                 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
16           following:

17           “(3) CONTINUING GRANT AND COOPERATIVE  
18           AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—

19                 “(A) PROMPT DISBURSEMENT.—Upon re-  
20           ceiving funds to carry out this section for a fis-  
21           cal year, the Administrator shall, to the extent  
22           practicable, promptly reimburse funds to any  
23           women’s business center awarded financial as-  
24           sistance under this section if the center meets  
25           the eligibility requirements under this section.

1           “(B) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION.—If  
2 the Administrator has entered into a grant or  
3 cooperative agreement with a women’s business  
4 center under this section, the Administrator  
5 may not suspend or terminate the grant or co-  
6 operative agreement, unless the Adminis-  
7 trator—

8           “(i) provides the women’s business  
9 center with written notification setting  
10 forth the reasons for that action; and

11           “(ii) affords the women’s business  
12 center an opportunity for a hearing, ap-  
13 peal, or other administrative proceeding  
14 under chapter 5 of title 5, United States  
15 Code.”;

16 (4) in subsection (m)—

17           (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-  
18 section (b) or (l)” and inserting “this sub-  
19 section or subsection (b)”;

20           (B) in paragraph (4)(D), by striking “or  
21 subsection (l)”;

22 (5) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), and  
23 (o), as amended by this Act, as subsections (l), (m),  
24 and (n), respectively.

25 (c) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRANTS.—

1           (1) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A nonprofit or-  
2           organization receiving a grant under section 29(m) of  
3           the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in  
4           effect on the day before the date of enactment of  
5           this Act, shall continue to receive the grant under  
6           the terms and conditions in effect for the grant on  
7           the day before the date of enactment of this Act, ex-  
8           cept that the nonprofit organization may not apply  
9           for a renewal of the grant under section 29(m)(5) of  
10          the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)(5)), as  
11          in effect on the day before the date of enactment of  
12          this Act.

13          (2) LENGTH OF RENEWAL GRANT.—The Ad-  
14          ministrator may award a grant under section 29(l)  
15          of the Small Business Act, as so redesignated by  
16          subsection (a)(5) of this section, to a nonprofit orga-  
17          nization receiving a grant under section 29(m) of the  
18          Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect  
19          on the day before the date of enactment of this Act,  
20          for the period—

21                  (A) beginning on the day after the last day  
22                  of the grant agreement under such section  
23                  29(m); and

1 (B) ending at the end of the third fiscal  
2 year beginning after the date of enactment of  
3 this Act.

4 **SEC. 5. MATCHING REQUIREMENTS UNDER WOMEN'S BUSI-**  
5 **NESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29(c) of the Small Busi-  
7 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)), as amended by section 4 of  
8 this Act, is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “As a condi-  
10 tion” and inserting “Subject to paragraph (6), as a  
11 condition”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(6) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE RELAT-  
14 ING TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COUN-  
15 SELING.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by a re-  
17 cipient organization, and in accordance with  
18 this paragraph, the Administrator may waive,  
19 in whole or in part, the requirement to obtain  
20 non-Federal funds under this subsection for the  
21 technical assistance and counseling activities of  
22 the recipient organization carried out using fi-  
23 nancial assistance under this section for a fiscal  
24 year. The Administrator may not waive the re-  
25 quirement for a recipient organization to obtain



1 non-Federal funds under this paragraph for  
2 more than a total of 2 consecutive fiscal years.

3 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining  
4 whether to waive the requirement to obtain  
5 non-Federal funds under this paragraph, the  
6 Administrator shall consider—

7 “(i) the economic conditions affecting  
8 the recipient organization;

9 “(ii) the impact a waiver under this  
10 clause would have on the credibility of the  
11 women’s business center program under  
12 this section;

13 “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the  
14 recipient organization to raise non-Federal  
15 funds; and

16 “(iv) the performance of the recipient  
17 organization.

18 “(C) LIMITATION.—The Administrator  
19 may not waive the requirement to obtain non-  
20 Federal funds under this paragraph if granting  
21 the waiver would undermine the credibility of  
22 the women’s business center program under  
23 this section.

1           “(7) SOLICITATION.—Notwithstanding any  
2 other provision of law, a recipient organization  
3 may—

4           “(A) solicit cash and in-kind contributions  
5 from private individuals and entities to be used  
6 to carry out the activities of the recipient orga-  
7 nization under the project conducted under this  
8 section; and

9           “(B) use amounts made available by the  
10 Administration under this section for the cost  
11 of such solicitation and management of the con-  
12 tributions received.”.

13 (b) REGULATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

15 (A) except as provided in paragraph (2),  
16 and not later than 1 year after the date of en-  
17 actment of this Act, publish in the Federal Reg-  
18 ister proposed regulations by the Administrator  
19 to carry out the amendments made to section  
20 29 of the Small Business Act by this Act; and

21 (B) accept public comments on such pro-  
22 posed regulations for not less than 60 days.

23 (2) EXISTING PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Para-  
24 graph (1)(A) shall not apply to the extent proposed  
25 regulations by the Administrator have been pub-

1 lished on the date of enactment of this Act that are  
2 sufficient to carry out the amendments made to sec-  
3 tion 29 of the Small Business Act by this Act.

4 **SEC. 6. STUDY AND REPORT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES FACING**  
5 **WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.**

6 (a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United  
7 States shall conduct a broad study of the unique economic  
8 issues facing women's business centers located in covered  
9 areas to identify—

10 (1) the difficulties such centers face in raising  
11 non-Federal funds;

12 (2) the difficulties such centers face in com-  
13 peting for financial assistance, non-Federal funds, or  
14 other types of assistance;

15 (3) the difficulties such centers face in writing  
16 grant proposals; and

17 (4) other difficulties such centers face because  
18 of the economy in the type of covered area in which  
19 such centers are located.

20 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date  
21 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
22 submit to Congress a report containing the results of the  
23 study under subsection (a), which shall include rec-  
24 ommendations, if any, regarding how to—

1           (1) address the unique difficulties women’s  
2 business centers located in covered areas face be-  
3 cause of the type of covered area in which such cen-  
4 ters are located;

5           (2) expand the presence of, and increase the  
6 services provided by, women’s business centers lo-  
7 cated in covered areas; and

8           (3) best use technology and other resources to  
9 better serve women business owners located in cov-  
10 ered areas.

11       (c) DEFINITION OF COVERED AREA.—In this section,  
12 the term “covered area” means—

13           (1) any State that is predominantly rural, as  
14 determined by the Administrator;

15           (2) any State that is predominantly urban, as  
16 determined by the Administrator; and

17           (3) any State or territory that is an island.

18 **SEC. 7. STUDY AND REPORT ON OVERSIGHT OF WOMEN’S**  
19 **BUSINESS CENTERS.**

20       (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United  
21 States shall conduct a study of the oversight of women’s  
22 business centers by the Administrator, which shall in-  
23 clude—

24           (1) an analysis of the coordination by the Ad-  
25 ministrator of the activities of women’s business cen-

1       ters with the activities of small business development  
2       centers, the Service Corps of Retired Executives,  
3       and Veteran Business Outreach Centers;

4           (2) a comparison of the types of individuals and  
5       small business concerns served by women's business  
6       centers and the types of individuals and small busi-  
7       ness concerns served by small business development  
8       centers, the Service Corps of Retired Executives,  
9       and Veteran Business Outreach Centers; and

10          (3) an analysis of performance data for wom-  
11       en's business centers that evaluates how well wom-  
12       en's business centers are carrying out the mission of  
13       women's business centers and serving individuals  
14       and small business concerns.

15       (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
16       of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall  
17       submit to Congress a report containing the results of the  
18       study under subsection (a), which shall include rec-  
19       ommendations, if any, for eliminating the duplication of  
20       services provided by women's business centers, small busi-  
21       ness development centers, the Service Corps of Retired  
22       Executives, and Veteran Business Outreach Centers.

1 **SEC. 8. SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS**  
2 **CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY**  
3 **WOMEN.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(m) of the Small Busi-  
5 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following:

7 “(7) AUTHORITY FOR SOLE SOURCE CON-  
8 TRACTS FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED  
9 SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CON-  
10 TROLLED BY WOMEN IN UNDERREPRESENTED IN-  
11 DUSTRIES.—A contracting officer may award a sole  
12 source contract under this subsection to a small  
13 business concern owned and controlled by women  
14 that meets the requirements under paragraph (2)(A)  
15 if—

16 “(A) the small business concern owned and  
17 controlled by women is in an industry in which  
18 small business concerns owned and controlled  
19 by women are underrepresented, as determined  
20 by the Administrator;

21 “(B) the contracting officer determines  
22 that the small business concern owned and con-  
23 trolled by women is a responsible contractor  
24 with respect to performance of the contract op-  
25 portunity;

1                   “(C) the anticipated award price of the  
2 contract, including options, is not more than—

3                   “(i) \$6,500,000, in the case of a con-  
4 tract opportunity assigned a North Amer-  
5 ican Industry Classification System code  
6 for manufacturing; or

7                   “(ii) \$4,000,000, in the case of any  
8 other contract opportunity; and

9                   “(D) in the estimation of the contracting  
10 officer, the contract award can be made at a  
11 fair and reasonable price.

12                   “(8) AUTHORITY FOR SOLE SOURCE CON-  
13 TRACTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED  
14 AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN IN SUBSTANTIALLY  
15 UNDERREPRESENTED INDUSTRIES.—A contracting  
16 officer may award a sole source contract under this  
17 subsection to a small business concern owned and  
18 controlled by women that meets the requirements  
19 under paragraph (2)(E) if—

20                   “(A) the small business concern owned and  
21 controlled by women is in an industry in which  
22 small business concerns owned and controlled  
23 by women are substantially underrepresented,  
24 as determined by the Administrator;

1           “(B) the contracting officer determines  
2           that the small business concern owned and con-  
3           trolled by women is a responsible contractor  
4           with respect to performance of the contract op-  
5           portunity;

6           “(C) the anticipated award price of the  
7           contract, including options, is not more than—

8                   “(i) \$6,500,000, in the case of a con-  
9                   tract opportunity assigned a North Amer-  
10                  ican Industry Classification System code  
11                  for manufacturing; or

12                   “(ii) \$4,000,000, in the case of any  
13                  other contract opportunity; and

14           “(D) in the estimation of the contracting  
15           officer, the contract award can be made at a  
16           fair and reasonable price.”.

17           (b) REPORTING ON GOALS FOR SOLE SOURCE CON-  
18           TRACTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND  
19           CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—Section 15(h)(2)(E)(viii) of  
20           the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(h)(2)(E)(viii)) is  
21           amended—

22                   (1) in subclause (IV), by striking “and” at the  
23                  end;

24                   (2) by redesignating subclause (V) as subclause  
25                  (VIII); and



1           (3) by inserting after subclause (IV) the fol-  
2           lowing:

3                           “(V) through sole source con-  
4                           tracts awarded under section 8(m)(7);

5                           “(VI) through sole source con-  
6                           tracts awarded under section 8(m)(8);

7                           “(VII) by industry for contracts  
8                           described in subclause (III), (IV), (V),  
9                           or (VI); and”.

10       (c) DEADLINE FOR REPORT ON UNDERREP-  
11       RESENTED INDUSTRIES ACCELERATED.—Section  
12       29(o)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(o)(2))  
13       is amended—

14           (1) by striking “5 years after the date of enact-  
15           ment of this subsection” and inserting “January 2,  
16           2015”; and

17           (2) by striking “5-year period” and inserting  
18           “2-year or 5-year period, as applicable,”.

19       (d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
20       Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
21       637(m)) is amended—

22           (1) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “paragraph  
23           (3)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”; and

1           (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “paragraph  
2           (2)(F)” each place it appears and inserting “para-  
3           graph (2)(E)”.

4 **SEC. 9. SMALL BUSINESS INTERMEDIARY LENDING PRO-**  
5 **GRAM.**

6           Section 7(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
7 636(l)) is amended—

8           (1) in the subsection heading, by striking  
9           “PILOT”;

10           (2) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “pilot”;

11           (3) in paragraph (2)—

12                 (A) by striking “3-year”; and

13                 (B) by striking “pilot”;

14           (4) in paragraph (4)—

15                 (A) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
16           serting the following:

17                 “(B) LOAN LIMITS.—

18                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—No single loan to  
19                         an eligible intermediary under this sub-  
20                         section may exceed \$1,000,000.

21                         “(ii) TOTAL AMOUNT.—The total  
22                         amount outstanding and committed to an  
23                         eligible intermediary by the Administrator  
24                         under the Program may not exceed  
25                         \$5,000,000.”; and

1 (B) by striking subparagraph (G) and in-  
2 serting the following:

3 “(G) **MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.**—The Adminis-  
4 trator may make loans under the Program—

5 “(i) during each of fiscal years 2015,  
6 2016, and 2017, in a total amount of not  
7 more than \$20,000,000; and

8 “(ii) during fiscal year 2018 and each  
9 fiscal year thereafter, using such amounts  
10 as are made available for the Program.”;  
11 and

12 (5) by striking paragraph (6).

13 **SEC. 10. ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR SMALL BUSINESS CON-**  
14 **CERNS.**

15 (a) **MICROLOAN PROGRAM.**—Section 7(m) of the  
16 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by striking “short-  
18 term,”;

19 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking  
20 “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$7,000,000”;

21 (3) in paragraph (4)—

22 (A) by striking subparagraph (E); and

23 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as  
24 subparagraph (E);

25 (4) in paragraph (6)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
2 “short-term,”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(F) REPORT TO MAJOR CREDIT REPORT-  
5 ING AGENCIES.—The Administrator shall estab-  
6 lish a process under which an intermediary that  
7 makes a loan to a small business concern under  
8 this paragraph shall provide to the major credit  
9 reporting agencies, through the Administration  
10 or independently, information on the small busi-  
11 ness concern that is relevant to credit reporting,  
12 including the payment activity of the small  
13 business concern on the loan.”;

14 (5) in paragraph (7)—

15 (A) by striking “PROGRAM” and all that  
16 follows through “Under” and inserting the fol-  
17 lowing: “NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.—Under”;  
18 and

19 (B) by striking subparagraph (B);

20 (6) in paragraph (8), by striking “such inter-  
21 mediaries” and all the follows through the period at  
22 the end and inserting the following: “intermediaries  
23 that serve a diversity of geographic areas in the  
24 United States to ensure appropriate availability of  
25 loans for small business concerns in all industries

1 that are located in metropolitan, nonmetropolitan,  
2 and rural areas.”; and

3 (7) in paragraph (11)(B), by striking “short-  
4 term,”.

5 (b) GUARANTEE FEE WAIVER.—During fiscal year  
6 2016, the Administrator may not collect a guarantee fee  
7 under section 7(a)(18)(A)(i) of the Small Business Act  
8 (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(18)(A)(i)) with respect to a loan guar-  
9 anteed under section 7(a) of such Act, unless amounts are  
10 made available to the Administrator to subsidize the cost  
11 of guaranteeing such loans for fiscal year 2016.

12 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, and every year  
15 thereafter, the Office of Capital Access of the Ad-  
16 ministration shall submit to the Committee on Small  
17 Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and  
18 the Committee on Small Business of the House of  
19 Representatives a report on assistance provided by  
20 the Administration under—

21 (A) section 7(a) of the Small Business Act

22 (15 U.S.C. 636(a));

23 (B) the microloan program;

1 (C) part A of title III of the Small Busi-  
2 ness Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et  
3 seq.); and

4 (D) section 502 of the Small Business In-  
5 vestment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696).

6 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Each report required  
7 under paragraph (1) shall include, for the year pre-  
8 ceding the date on which the report is submitted—

9 (A) for each type of assistance described  
10 under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of para-  
11 graph (1)—

12 (i) the number of loans made by the  
13 Administration;

14 (ii) the total amount of loans made by  
15 the Administration;

16 (iii) the percentage of the number and  
17 total amount of loans made by the Admin-  
18 istration to—

19 (I) rural small business concerns;

20 (II) small business concerns  
21 owned and controlled by individuals  
22 with a disability;

23 (III) small business concerns  
24 owned and controlled by low-income  
25 individuals, broken down by each ra-

1 cial or ethnic minority group of which  
2 those individuals are members;

3 (IV) small business concerns  
4 owned and controlled by veterans;

5 (V) small business concerns  
6 owned and controlled by women; and

7 (VI) small business concerns  
8 owned and controlled by members of a  
9 racial or ethnic minority group, bro-  
10 ken down by each such racial or eth-  
11 nic minority group; and

12 (iv) the number of jobs created and  
13 retained by borrowers as a result of such  
14 assistance; and

15 (B) for assistance described under sub-  
16 paragraph (C) of paragraph (1)—

17 (i) the number of investments made  
18 by small business investment companies;

19 (ii) the total amount of equity capital  
20 provided and loans made by small business  
21 investment companies;

22 (iii) the percentage of the number of  
23 investments and loans made and total  
24 amount of equity capital provided by small  
25 business investment companies to—

1 (I) rural small business concerns;

2 (II) small business concerns

3 owned and controlled by individuals

4 with a disability;

5 (III) small business concerns

6 owned and controlled by low-income

7 individuals, broken down by each ra-

8 cial or ethnic minority group of which

9 those individuals are members;

10 (IV) small business concerns

11 owned and controlled by veterans;

12 (V) small business concerns

13 owned and controlled by women; and

14 (VI) small business concerns

15 owned and controlled by members of a

16 racial or ethnic minority group, bro-

17 ken down by each such racial or eth-

18 nic minority group;

19 (iv) the number of jobs created and

20 retained by small business concerns as a

21 result of investments made by small busi-

22 ness investment companies; and

23 (v) the number of licenses issued by

24 the Administration under section 301(c) of

25 the Small Business Investment Act (15



1 U.S.C. 681(c)), including the percentage of  
2 licenses issued to entities headed by a  
3 woman or a member of a racial or ethnic  
4 minority, respectively.

5 **SEC. 11. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

6 It is the sense of the Senate that—

7 (1) access to capital for small business concerns  
8 owned and controlled by women comes from a vari-  
9 ety of sources, including important contributions and  
10 early investments from angel capital and other ven-  
11 ture capital investors; and

12 (2) those investors should continue to work to  
13 develop small business concerns owned and con-  
14 trolled by women to expand the rate at which those  
15 women receive venture investment.