

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express support for legislation to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise (ICWBE).

More than 36% of American businesses are women-owned, a segment growing at four times the rate of men-owned businesses. Government support through various procurement, lending and business assistance programs play a key role in the success of women-owned businesses. A continued focus on promoting women in business throughout the federal government will maximize and grow their already sizable impact on our economy: contributing \$1.6 trillion annually to the economy and employing nearly 9 million.

If reauthorized, the work of the ICWBE will play a critical role in developing interagency policies that assist and promote growth for women owned businesses. Reinstating the Committee in the *Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise Act* will facilitate intergovernmental cooperation to provide women in business access to government contracts, technical assistance, access to capital via grant and loan programs, and business training and mentoring.

The ICWBE has, in the past, served a vital purpose – to monitor, coordinate, and promote programs within federal agencies that support and strengthen women's business ownership. We believe this work should continue and urge reauthorization of this Committee. Thank you for championing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

CAMEO – California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity  
GovEvolve  
HUBZone Contractors National Council  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC)  
Women Veterans Business Coalition (WVBC)