

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chair
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510


Dear Chairman Van Hollen and Ranking Member Hagerty:

As you prepare the Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2024, we request that you provide robust funding for the programs administrated by the Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED) and the Office of Entrepreneurship Education (OEE) at the Small Business Administration (SBA).

The OED and OEE together play a vital role in supporting and promoting small businesses across the country. These offices provide small businesses with advising, mentoring, and training assistance by leveraging the resource partner network of Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, and the non-profit association SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), as well as the Regional Innovation Clusters, Entrepreneurship Education, SBA Learning Center, and Emerging Leaders programs. These programs work to build partnerships and find innovative ways to stimulate small business growth. The Small Business Development Centers Program, for example, brings together the private sector, educational community, and federal, state, and local governments to tailor technical assistance to the needs of small business clients in all 50 states.

SBA entrepreneurial development programs are now more important than ever, helping to promote small businesses and provide critical support to entrepreneurs. America's 33 million small businesses support approximately 61 million jobs, and provide employment opportunities in rural and urban communities alike. When American small businesses are strong, they help grow our economy while strengthening the communities that they serve. Due to the benefits that the SBA entrepreneurial development programs provide to small businesses, we respectfully request that you appropriate robust funding for these programs.

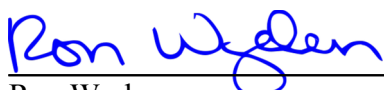
Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



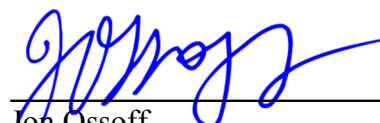
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



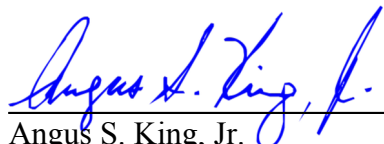
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



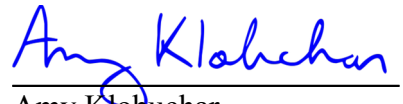
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



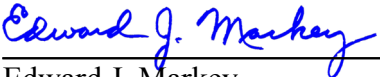
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator