



WIPP 2015 Policy Priorities

Increase Access to Capital for Women Entrepreneurs

According to the 2014 Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee “21st Century Barriers to Women’s Entrepreneurship” Report, only four percent of the total dollar value of all small business loans goes to women entrepreneurs. WIPP is working with stakeholders and policymakers across the financial and entrepreneurial sectors to identify solutions to the ongoing access issue. Past efforts to increase small business lending programs and advance alternative sources of capital like CrowdFunding, while successful, are only a part of a much broader package of solutions WIPP is developing.

Assist Women-Owned Businesses Secure Federal Government Contracts

With the important addition of sole source to the WOSB Procurement Program, the federal government is poised, for the first time, to meet its five percent goal of contracting with women-owned businesses. For this reason, WIPP urges the Small Business Administration (SBA) to implement this change swiftly. WIPP is also working to advance access to the federal marketplace for women entrepreneurs through Offices of Minority and Women’s Inclusion (OMWIs). The Offices, established in twenty federal institutions, are mandated to increase contracting with women-owned businesses. Lastly, WIPP continues to engage the federal contracting world through its ChallengeHER campaign in partnership with the SBA.

Make Needed Changes to the Affordable Care Act

For nearly a decade, WIPP has been dedicated to creating insurance exchanges in order for small businesses to access competitively priced healthcare options. Changes to existing law, that enhance these exchanges, should be embraced to maximize the positive impact for, and minimize burdens on women business owners. Examples include: changing the definition of a full-time employee from the statutory thirty hours per week to the traditional definition of forty hours per week, expanding eligibility for the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit, and reinstating Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) for small businesses.

WIPP is a national nonpartisan public policy organization advocating on behalf of its coalition of 4.7 million businesswomen including 78 business organizations.