



March 8, 2017

The Honorable Mike Quigley
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Quigley,

As you begin appropriations for Fiscal Year 2018, I am writing to urge your support for critical business assistance programs.

Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) is a national nonpartisan public policy organization, advocating on behalf of women entrepreneurs and representing a coalition of 79 business organizations.

We would like to thank you for funding the majority of these important lending and training programs at or above our requests in previous years, and we respectfully request the following House funding levels, which reflect the investments necessary to spur further growth for women-owned businesses:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Request</u>
Women's Business Centers	\$21.75M
Microloan Lending	\$44M
Microloan Technical Assistance	\$31M
PRIME	\$10M
Office of Advocacy	\$9.3M

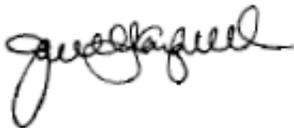
SBA's lending programs are vitally important to WIPP members, including a robust 7(a) program and a Community Advantage Program.

According to the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small businesses have created two-thirds of new jobs since the end of the recession in 2009. There are 10 million women-owned businesses in the United States, accounting for nearly 36% of all businesses, and generating \$1.6 trillion in total receipts.¹ These are impressive numbers. However, it is imperative that we continue to support our nation's women entrepreneurs by ensuring access to capital, business training and counseling resources.

These programs support women-owned businesses by providing the tools and capital they need to succeed. For example, in FY16, the Microloan Program supported nearly 4,500 microloans totaling \$60.8 million to small businesses. Women-owned firms received 47% of the total number of microloans issued and 38% of the amount issued.² Since 2007, the number of women-owned firms increased by 45%, compared to only a 9% increase among all businesses in the United States.³ These numbers show that expanded support for women entrepreneurs is imperative.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding these requests, please contact Jennifer White at (202) 626-8528 or at jwhite@madisonservicesgroup.com.

Sincerely,



Jane Campbell
President, Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP)
Director of the Washington Office of the National Development Council (NDC)

¹ National Women's Business Council. 10 Million Strong: The Tipping point for Women Entrepreneurs. 2016.

² Congressional Research Service. Small Business Administration Microloan Program. December 6, 2016. Robert Jay Dilger.

³ American Express OPEN. The 2016 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report. April 2016.