



November 28, 2022

The Honorable Ben Cardin, Chairman
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
428A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cardin,

America's SBDCs, the association representing the sixty-three small business development center (SBDC) networks and their nearly 1,000 centers, wishes to express its strong support for the *Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2022*. This bill is both timely and necessary to rejuvenate and restore vital programs and services delivered through the Small Business Administration.

In particular, SBDCs wish to express their support for section 7 which clarifies the privacy protections that are important to the trust SBDC clients repose in our advisors. Confidentiality is a cornerstone of the SBDC advisor/client relationship, and we appreciate the committee's support of that relationship.

We also strongly support the language in sections 3 and 5 codifying the ability of SBDCs to market their services and to establish co-sponsorships with outside organizations. These are vital changes that reinforce the ability of SBDCs to leverage their skills with partners who are invaluable to maintaining and building a vibrant, creative, and innovative national entrepreneurial assistance network.

Finally, we want to express our appreciation for section 4 which will provide for a more comprehensive reporting of the impact SBDCs have on the small business economy.

Again, Chairman Cardin, thank you and your staff, for this timely legislation. America's SBDCs look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Edward Rowe III".

C. Edward Rowe III
President/CEO