



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9/29/2022

CONTACT
Ashlyn Roberts
ar@prismgroup.global

Association of Women's Business Centers Applauds the Introduction of the *Federal Contracting Fairness Act of 2022*

Washington, D.C. – The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Chairman Ben Cardin (D-MD) introduced the *Federal Contracting Fairness Act of 2022* to bring modernizations to the Small Business Administration 8(a) Business Development program, which provides set-aside contract dollars and entrepreneurial development opportunities for small, 8(a) certified firms in government contracting.

Association of Women's Business Centers ([AWBC](#)) CEO Corinne Goble Hodges released the following statement:

“AWBC welcomes the introduction of the *Federal Contracting Fairness Act of 2022* as it works to create new pathways to capital and contract opportunities for women-owned businesses through the 8(a) program. While the 8(a) program has served many entrepreneurs, the updates proposed in this legislation will work to improve the program's effectiveness in its ability to reach underserved entrepreneurs. Updates to the program, if passed, will include a ramp-up period for newly certified firms, a requirement on data transparency and reporting on contract awards, reduced administrative burdens on entrepreneurs who participate, and an increase to existing sole-source award caps; updates that are critical for women entrepreneurs to compete in the federal contract marketplace.

Among other provisions, this legislation would also enable small firms to denote demographic data in SAM.gov, giving stakeholders in procurement equity more data to hold procurement officials accountable to ensuring that minority-owned firms truly benefit from the 8(a) program. We are grateful to the Senate Small Business Committee in their work on this legislation and look forward to supporting updates to the 8(a) through the *Federal Contracting Fairness Act*.”

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About the Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC)

The AWBC (www.awbc.org) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1998 to support the national network of Women's Business Centers (WBCs) with programming and advocacy. Each year, our members leverage WBC grants to operate more than 150 locations throughout the United States. WBCs have more than 30 years of success in providing business training, counseling, mentoring, and access to capital to women entrepreneurs. The WBC program is a public-private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.